1	TOWN OF WESTFIELD
2	PLANNING BOARD
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4	IN RE
5	: (SPECIAL MEETING)
6	PLANNING BOARD REORGANIZATION :
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10	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS Wednesday, January 26, 2022
11	Municipal Building 425 East Broad Street
12	Westfield, New Jersey Commencing at 7:00 p.m.
13	*Meeting held virtually via Zoom*
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2	BEFORE:
3	MICHAEL ASH, CHAIRMAN
4	MICHAEL LA PLACE, VICE-CHAIRMAN
5	MAYOR SHELLEY BRINDLE, MAYOR DESIGNEE
6	COUNCILMAN MICHAEL DARDIA, COUNCIL LIAISON
7	MATTHEW CEBERIO, MEMBER
8	ANASTASIA HARRISON, MEMBER
9	ROSS GOLDSTEIN, MEMBER
10	ASIMA JANSVELD, MEMBER
11	ALEXANDRA CARRERAS, FIRST ALTERNATE
12	ANN FREEDMAN, SECOND ALTERNATE
13	
14	DON SAMMET, TOWN PLANNER/BOARD SECRETARY
15	DAVID BATTAGLIA, TOWN ENGINEER
16	
17	APPEARANCES:
18	
19	ASHENFELTER, TREMBULAK, MCDONOUGH, GOLIA & TREVENEN, LLP
20	BY: ALAN TREMBULAK, ESQ. Attorney for the BOARD
21	
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2	A G E N D A	
3		
4	Description	PAGE
5		0.5
6	ROLL CALL	05
7	SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS (NEW & OLD) (LAPLACE, HARRISON, FREEDMAN, DARDIA) (DARDIA RE-SWORN)	0 6 2 0
8	*TILLER ABSENT*	
9 10	NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR CHAIR (ASH) VICE-CHAIR (LAPLACE)	0 7 0 8
10	SECRETARY (SAMMET)	10
11	BOARD ATTORNEY - ORDINARY/EXTRAORDINARY (TREMBULAK)	11
12	ADDOINTMENT OF CITE DIAN CUDCOMMITTEE	
13	APPOINTMENT OF SITE PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE (LAPLACE, HARRISON, DARDIA, CEBERIO)	14
14	APPOINTMENT OF PB TO HPC (FREEDMAN)	15
15	APPOINTMENT OF PB LIAISON TO TPC (JANSVELD)	17
16 17	SWEARING IN OF TOWN ENGINEER & PLANNER (BATTAGLIA, SAMMET)	19
1	(DATIAGEIA, SARMEI)	1)
18	MEETING SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 2022	20
19	MEETING ADJOURNED	21
20	PUBLIC MEETING	22
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22		
23		
24		
25		

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2	PROCEEDINGS
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5	MR. SAMMET: We are now live. Happy
6	belated New Year everyone. In compliance with the
7	Open Public Meetings Act in the State of New
8	Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was
9	provided to all members of the planning board and
10	the newspapers that have been designated to
11	receive notice. This is actually a special
12	meeting replacing our originally scheduled first
13	meeting in January. We rescheduled due to the
14	Omicron variant and concerns about meeting in
15	person. We went to a virtual format, but because
16	of legal notice and requirements for applications
17	for development, we had to choose a new date and
18	have the applicants provide new notice.
19	So this is actually our re-org on
20	January 26. I'm going to first lead us in the
21	Pledge of Allegiance and then I'll take a roll.
22	So if everyone will join me.
23	(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance
24	was recited.)
25	MR. SAMMET: Now, I'll take the

- 1 roll. We have it pretty much in alphabetical
- 2 order except for alternates.
- 3 Michael Ash.
- 4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Here.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Mayor Brindle.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: Here.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Matthew Ceberio.
- MR. CEBERIO: Here.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Councilman Dardia.
- 10 Councilman Dardia, I see you're here.
- MR. LAPLACE: He's muted.
- MR. DARDIA: Here.
- MR. SAMMET: Anastasia Harrison.
- MS. HARRISON: Here.
- 15 MR. SAMMET: Ross Goldstein.
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: Here.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Asima Jansveld.
- MS. JANSVELD: Here.
- MR. SAMMET: Michael LaPlace.
- MR. LA PLACE: Here.
- MR. SAMMET: Anthony Tiller is
- 22 absent. Alexandra Carreras.
- MS. CARRERAS: Present.
- 24 MR. SAMMET: And Ann Freedman.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Here.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: We have five members
- 2 that need to be sworn in. I believe Alan, we can
- do them all at once. We don't need to do
- 4 individual.
- 5 MR. TREMBULAK: Yeah. They can be
- 6 done collectively, Don.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: So welcome to your
- 8 first term Councilman Dardia. And welcome to your
- 9 -- I guess we'd say reappointments or renewed
- 10 appointments -- to Michael LaPlace, Anthony Tiller
- 11 -- who is not here, so I'll swear him in next time
- 12 -- Anastasia Harrison and Ann Freedman. Will you
- all please raise your right hands and repeat after
- 14 me.
- 15 (Whereupon, MICHAEL DARDIA,
- 16 MICHAEL LAPLACE, ANASTASIA HARRISON, AND
- 17 ANN FREEDMAN having been duly sworn were appointed
- 18 into office.)
- 19 All right. Thank you, everyone, and
- 20 welcome. We'll have these oaths when we're in a
- 21 public meeting to actually sign. Welcome or
- re-welcome to the board.
- The next item on your reorganization
- 24 agenda is a report of any nominating committee
- 25 that you may have formed to appoint a chair and

- 1 vice-chair. If no nominating committee has been
- formed, someone can simply make a nomination from
- 3 the floor. I guess we'll start with chair of the
- 4 planning board. Michael LaPlace.
- 5 MR. LAPLACE: I don't think a
- 6 committee was formed. So considering that, I
- 7 would like to nominate Michael Ash to serve again
- 8 as chair.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Does anyone second that
- 10 nomination?
- 11 MS. HARRISON: I'll second it.
- 12 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Harrison. I'll do
- an; all in favor.
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 15 MR. SAMMET: Any opposed. I see
- 16 none. Congratulations, Chairman Ash.
- 17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: And thank you,
- 19 Chairman Ash.
- MR. LAPLACE: I was going on the
- 21 assumption that he wanted to be chairman again.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: We don't ask those
- 23 questions, Michael.
- 24 CHAIRMAN ASH: There's only a
- 25 nominating committee, and there's no exception for

- 1 the committees. Thank you, and it's my pleasure
- 2 to continue to serve. I'm happy to see that
- 3 everyone who was up for renomination had
- 4 volunteered to continue our service on this board.
- 5 I think we all agree that it's an important role
- for our community, and I'm glad everyone is as
- 7 invested in this as I am, and Don. So welcome
- 8 back everyone. And you know let's get right into
- 9 the business. I guess am I taking it from here,
- 10 Don?
- MR. SAMMET: You can. Or if you
- 12 like Mr. Chairman, I could ask for nominations for
- 13 vice-chair of the board.
- 14 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. We'll
- 15 take that as an ask for nominations for
- 16 vice-chair. And since I'm unmuted, I will
- 17 nominate Michael LaPlace to continue as
- 18 vice-chair.
- MS. FREEDMAN: And I'd like to
- 20 second that.
- MR. SAMMET: Motion by Chairman Ash.
- 22 Seconded by Miss Freedman.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Yes.
- 24 MAYOR BRINDLE: And nobody asked
- 25 Michael.

- 1 MR. CEBERIO: Maybe that's his
- 2 punishment.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: All in favor.
- 4 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Any opposed. I see
- 6 none. Congratulations Vice-Chair LaPlace.
- 7 MR. LAPLACE: Thank you. Thank you,
- 8 everyone. It's an honor to serve on this board in
- 9 this town and I appreciate your faith in me and I
- 10 look forward to a really productive year.
- 11 MAYOR BRINDLE: I will just add my
- 12 personal thanks to not only the two of you, to the
- entire board, and to those that agreed to serve
- 14 another term. I love the way this board has come
- 15 together, and I'm hard-pressed to believe that
- there's a more qualified and exceptional planning
- 17 board in the State of New Jersey. I might be
- 18 biased, but we are a -- there is a lot of
- 19 horsepower around this planning board and it gives
- 20 me so much confidence in the decisions that this
- 21 group makes because of all the experience you
- 22 bring to the table. So thank you very much for
- 23 your volunteer service.
- MR. SAMMET: I guess moving on,
- 25 Mr. Chairman, it's the appointment of a secretary.

- 1 CHAIRMAN ASH: And that's not a
- 2 nomination but an appointment, as you outlined. I
- 3 would move to appoint Don Sammet as secretary of
- 4 the planning board.
- 5 MR. CEBERIO: I'll second that.
- 6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Matt. All
- 7 those in favor of Don Sammet appointed to
- 8 secretary of the planning board say aye.
- 9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed. Any
- 11 abstentions. Congratulations to you, Don Sammet,
- 12 our secretary.
- MR. SAMMET: I'm actually filling
- 14 Kris McAloon's shoes in that role.
- 15 MR. LAPLACE: I'd like to add what
- 16 Mayor Brindle said about this board is largely due
- to our staff, in particular, Don as well. We're
- 18 very lucky to have him on board.
- MR. SAMMET: Thank you very much.
- 20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Agreed. Next, we
- 21 have a resolution appointing the 2022 planning
- 22 board attorney for ordinary and extraordinary
- 23 service. There's a resolution for the retention
- for professional legal services of Ashenfeter,
- 25 Slous, Trembulak, McDonough, Golia and Trevenen,

- 1 LLP. Mr. Trembulak is here with us this evening,
- 2 and I'll move this resolution for that
- 3 appointment.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: There's actually two,
- 5 Mr. Chairman. One is for extraordinary duties.
- 6 The other for the ordinary.
- 7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Let's take them both
- 8 together for ordinary and extraordinary as to the
- 9 planning board. Can I have a second?
- MR. CEBERIO: I'll second that.
- 11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thanks again, Matt.
- 12 All those in favor.
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed. Any
- 15 abstentions. All right. Welcome back
- 16 Mr. Trembulak.
- 17 MR. TREMBULAK: Thank you very much.
- 18 It's been an honor and a privilege to work with
- 19 this board. I appreciate your continued trust and
- 20 confidence, and I look forward to working with all
- of you over the course of the next year. Thanks
- 22 again.
- 23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Our next
- order of business on the agenda is appointment of
- 25 the site plan review commit. Don, how many

- 1 members.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Chairman, there are
- 3 four members to that subcommittee.
- 4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Good.
- 5 MAYOR BRINDLE: Mr. Chair, can you
- 6 remind the group who's been the previous four.
- 7 CHAIRMAN ASH: I'll defer to you,
- 8 Don.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: It was Anastasia,
- 10 Linda Habgood served on it, Michael LaPlace and
- 11 Anne Freedman were our four members last year.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: And Don, can you
- just remind everybody what the duties of the role
- 14 are and what they do.
- 15 MR. SAMMET: Sure. The Site Plan
- 16 Review Subcommittee is often tasked by the board
- 17 to conduct more detailed design reviews of
- 18 applications. A good example would be when
- there's a minor subdivision, we have a provision
- in our zoning ordinance where the two homes
- 21 constructed sit side-by-side as part of a
- 22 subdivision cannot be identical. There are design
- 23 standards in the ordinance that pertain to that,
- and very often, the Site Plan Subcommittee is
- 25 charged with ensuring compliance with that

- ordinance. Also, very often, the subcommittee
- will be tasked by the board to work out design
- details for a specific application where the board
- 4 has approved an application, is okay with the
- 5 substance, if you will, of the application, and
- 6 needs some more technical design-oriented
- questions to the site plan subcommittee. It's a
- 8 group that typically meets before the regular
- 9 meeting for about a half-hour, however, that can
- 10 vary. I mentioned Before we started this evening
- 11 that there are two different developers knocking
- on the door to meet the subcommittee, so there may
- be a necessity for a special meeting of that
- 14 subcommittee every now and then.
- 15 MAYOR BRINDLE: And Don, would you
- 16 say it's fair to say I know that occasionally
- developers that come forward with a potential
- 18 project and they're just looking for some input,
- 19 and the site plan subcommittee can serve in some
- 20 advisory capacity just to get some aesthetic
- input. Would you agree with that?
- MR. SAMMET: It's a bit tough with
- that because then we have board members discussing
- an application outside of a public forum.
- 25 Dave Battaglia, our engineer and I, as well as the

- 1 zoning officer very often provide those services.
- 2 But the subcommittee on occasion does provide
- 3 advice regarding potential ordinance amendments or
- 4 even related to safe site design standards in a
- 5 redevelopment plan.
- 6 MAYOR BRINDLE: Yes, that's what I
- 7 mean. Thank you.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: I for one, would
- 9 recommend some continuity on the committee because
- 10 we have some applications that have been approved
- in the past which I think the folks on that
- 12 subcommittee would be best served to help us to
- move those applications forward. But it's
- 14 certainly not ever required that someone be
- 15 reappointed to it.
- 16 CHAIRMAN ASH: I agree and I think
- that's a good place to start with our current
- 18 members. Three are legacy members of that
- 19 committee and would start by asking if there's a
- desire to be reappointed to the site plan
- 21 subcommittee of the current members; so
- 22 Michael LaPlace, Anastasia Harrison, Ann Freedman.
- MS. FREEDMAN: I'd be happy to
- 24 serve. But if you needed someone to do the
- 25 historical liaison, and there was no one else, I

- 1 would move over there as a substitute. But, yes.
- 2 The answer is yes.
- 3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Let me ask, do you
- 4 have a preference there? Would you want to be the
- 5 liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission?
- MS. FREEDMAN: I think that would be
- 7 interesting. And when you talk about legacy,
- 8 there would be two others that would be holdovers.
- 9 MR. CEBERIO: I was the liaison in
- 10 2021 for the Historic Preservation Commission. I
- 11 probably was going to need to say that there's
- some conflict professionally on the night that
- they typically meet. So if Ann would like to do
- that, that would be great.
- 15 MS. FREEDMAN: Okay. What night do
- 16 they meet, Matt?
- MR. CEBERIO: It's usually the
- 18 fourth Monday of the month.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Okay. That's fine.
- MR. LAPLACE: Michael, I'm fine with
- 21 staying on it.
- 22 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Thank
- 23 you.
- MS. HARRISON: I'm fine with staying
- on it as long as you think I'm still worthy. I

- 1 ask a lot of questions.
- MS. FREEDMAN: That's a good thing,
- 3 Anastasia.
- 4 MR. LAPLACE: It would be really
- 5 dull without Anastasia, so, please.
- 6 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Thank you. So
- 7 that leaves two seats on that subcommittee. If
- 8 anyone is interested, just let me know.
- 9 MR. CEBERIO: Don, you said they
- typically meet before these meetings?
- MS. HARRISON: Yeah. It's like,
- 12 6:30 to 7:00.
- MR. SAMMET: 6:30. Exactly.
- MR. CEBERIO: If that is the case,
- 15 this night doesn't conflict, so I'd be more than
- 16 happy to help with that.
- 17 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Thanks,
- 18 Matt. If there's no one else interested, I
- 19 suppose I could fulfill one of those.
- MS. JANSVELD: I'll jump in for site
- 21 plan. Also, how many people do we need for the
- tree preservation one? Ross, I think you did it
- 23 before. I don't know if you were planning to do
- 24 it again this year.
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: You're welcome to --

- if you want to flex that muscle, you're welcome
- 2 to.
- 3 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Asima,
- 4 your choice.
- 5 MS. JANSVELD: I thought I'd try the
- tree preservation one this time. But I'll do site
- 7 plan if no one else is able to do site plan and
- 8 someone else was interested in trees.
- 9 CHAIRMAN ASH: How about we take it
- 10 out of order. Is there any other interest in
- 11 being the liaison to the tree preservation
- 12 committee? I see none. Looks that one is yours,
- 13 Asima.
- MS. JANSVELD: All right.
- 15 CHAIRMAN ASH: That brings us back
- 16 to the site plan review. Anyone else have
- 17 interest?
- MS. HARRISON: I'm going to maybe
- 19 talk a bit. It was really helpful to have Linda
- there at those meetings. I don't know if
- 21 Mr. Dardia wants to jump in on that. But because
- 22 she was also town council, it helped pull a little
- 23 more weight when she would say she would bring it
- 24 back to town council. I felt it to be very
- 25 helpful when she was at all of our meetings to

- 1 have a town council representative there. But
- there's no pressure.
- 3 (Crosstalk.)
- 4 MS. HARRISON: I didn't hear you.
- 5 MR. DARDIA: Can you hear me?
- MR. LAPLACE: Yeah.
- 7 MR. DARDIA: You can hear me.
- MR. CEBERIO: Yes.
- 9 MR. LAPLACE: It's a little spotty,
- 10 but we can hear you.
- MR. DARDIA: I'm sorry. My phone
- 12 connection is really terrible. I don't know why.
- 13 Yes, I will do it.
- MR. LAPLACE: And I was going to say
- 15 that even though Don said there're two parties
- 16 lined up to speak to us, it really wasn't a
- 17 big-time commitment last year. Just so everyone
- 18 knows that.
- MS. HARRISON: The only commitment
- 20 was that Wychwood House. That was the only one
- 21 that drove us nuts.
- MR. SAMMET: Thank you, members, of
- the Site Plan Review Subcommittee. I'll try to
- line up your first meeting for actually
- 25 February 7, prior to the start of our regular

- 1 planning board meeting.
- 2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Thank you, very much.
- 4 CHAIRMAN ASH: Do we need a vote on
- 5 these appointments or we're good?
- MR. SAMMET: I don't believe so,
- 7 Mr. Chairman. They were treated in the past as
- 8 chair appointments, so there wasn't a vote.
- 9 MS. JANSVELD: I guess I should ask.
- 10 When does the Tree Preservation Committee meet?
- 11 How often?
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: It's the fourth
- 13 Thursday of every month.
- 14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, everyone,
- 15 for your additional service. That brings us to --
- 16 we're going to swear in our town engineer and town
- 17 planner to provide professional testimony for the
- 18 2022 planning board calendar year.
- Don and David, if you would raise
- 20 your right hand.
- 21 (Whereupon, Don Sammet and
- 22 David Battaglia having been duly sworn were
- 23 appointed into office.)
- 24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you.
- 25 MR. SAMMET: Thank you, everyone.

- 1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Don, we have our
- 2 schedule of meetings for the 2022 calendar year,
- 3 and that will be posted in town hall and on our
- 4 website; is that right?
- 5 MR. SAMMET: That's correct. We
- 6 provide it to the town clerk and she takes care of
- 7 it for us.
- 8 CHAIRMAN ASH: And that will
- 9 continue to be the first Monday of the month at
- 7:30 unless there's a holiday conflict?
- 11 MR. SAMMET: That's correct.
- 12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Great. And I
- 13 believe that concludes or reorganization agenda.
- 14 And with that, a motion to adjourn our
- 15 reorganization.
- MR. DARDIA: Before you do. Mike,
- can I just ask one thing. Can you hear me?
- 18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes.
- MR. DARDIA: When we were getting
- sworn in earlier, my phone cut out. So I don't
- 21 know if I'm officially sworn in.
- 22 CHAIRMAN ASH: Would you like to do
- 23 that again?
- MR. DARDIA: Sure.
- 25 (Whereupon, Mr. Dardia, having been

1	duly re-sworn was appointed into office.)
2	MR. SAMMET: Congratulations.
3	CHAIRMAN ASH: Officially,
4	congratulations.
5	MR. DARDIA: Thank you.
6	CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Dardia, loves
7	committees and oaths.
8	MR. DARDIA: Apparently.
9	CHAIRMAN ASH: And now, let's
. 0	adjourn our reorganization meeting. Second?
.1	MR. CEBERIO: Second.
.2	CHAIRMAN ASH: All in favor.
L3	BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
L 4	CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed. Any
L 5	abstentions. Okay. We're adjourned from our
_6	reorganization meeting. I have it at 7:29.
L 7	
-8	
9	(The meeting was adjourned at
20	7:29 p.m.)
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2	TOWN OF WESTFIELD
3	PLANNING BOARD
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6	IN RE PB-21-11 :
7	PRELIMINARY AND FINAL MAJOR SITE PLAN: 552-556 NORTH AVENUE EAST :
8	560 NORTH AVENUE EAST : BLOCK 3305 LOTS 1.03 AND 1.04 :
9	VCEA PROJECT NO. WES-1001.006 :
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13	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS Wednesday, January 26, 2022
14	Municipal Building 425 East Broad Street
15	Westfield, New Jersey Commencing at 7:30 p.m.
16	*Meeting held virtually via Zoom?
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5	MAYOR SHELLEY BRINDLE, MAYOR DESIGNEE
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12	ANN FREEDMAN, SECOND ALTERNATE
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19	APPEARANCES:
20	ASHENFELTER, TREMBULAK, MCDONOUGH, GOLIA &
21	TREVENEN, LLP BY: ALAN TREMBULAK, ESQ.
22	Attorney for the BOARD
23	HEHL & HEHL
24	BY: STEPHEN HEHL, ESQ. Attorney for the APPLICANT PATEL
25	

1			
2	A G E N D A 		
3			
4	Description		PAGE
5	ROLL CALL		26
6	APPROVAL OF MINUTES		30
7	APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS		31
8	NEW BUSINESS - PB21-11 560 NORTH AVE MOTION TO APPROVE APPLICATION	Ε.	33
9	W/CONDITIONS		117
10			
11			
12	W 1 1 N E 5 5 E 5		
13	APPLICATION WITNESS		PAGE
14	AFFIICATION WITNESS		rage
15	TOM QUINN		37
16	GREG BLASI		70
17	NIMESH PATEL	82,	90,107
18	JAMES WATSON		91
19			
20	PUBLIC WITNESS		PAGE
21	DIANE BRESCHER	61	81, 108
22	JOHN AREZZI	01,	62
23	001114 171/11911		U Z
24			
2.5			

1			
2		E X H I B I T S 	
3	NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
4			IAGE
5	A-1	SHEET S-04 COLORED FRONT & REAR ELEVATIONS	7 6
6	A-2	SHEET S-04 COLORED RIGHT & LEFT SIDE ELEVATIONS	7 6
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
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2	PROCEEDINGS
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5	CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Secretary, a roll
6	call, please.
7	MR. SAMMET: Sure. First, I think
8	we need to ready the Open Public Meetings Act
9	statement.
10	CHAIRMAN ASH: You got it?
11	MR. SAMMET: If you have it or I can
12	do it, if you like.
13	CHAIRMAN ASH: It's here.
14	In compliance with Chapter 231 of
15	the Open Public Meetings Act in the State of New
16	Jersey, adequate notice of this meeting was
17	provided to all members of the Planning Board and
18	the newspapers that have been designated to
19	receive notice; the Star Ledger and the Westfield
20	Leader.
21	MR. SAMMET: For the roll.
22	Chairman Ash.
23	CHAIRMAN ASH: Here.
24	MR. SAMMET: Mayor Brindle.
25	MAYOR BRINDLE: Yes.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Ceberio.
- MR. CEBERIO: Here.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Councilman Dardia.
- 4 MR. DARDIA: Here.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Harrison.
- MS. HARRISON: Yes.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Goldstein.
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Jansveld.
- MS. JANSVELD: Here.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. LaPlace.
- MR. LA PLACE: Here.
- 13 MR. SAMMET: Chief Tiller is absent
- 14 this evening. Ms. Carreras.
- MS. CARRERAS: Present.
- 16 MR. SAMMET: And Ms. Freedman.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Here.
- 18 MR. SAMMET: Thank you.
- 19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. We have
- 20 minutes from our December 6, 2021, meeting.
- 21 Everyone's had a chance to review the minutes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Chairman, I believe
- 23 Ms. Freedman may have had a correction or two she
- 24 would like to make.
- 25 MS. FREEDMAN: Yeah. There are a

- 1 couple of pieces of incorrect information. If you
- 2 flip to the second to the last page under New
- 3 Appeals, in the third paragraph it names the names
- 4 of the company. It says, "Representing LLC
- 5 Partners." We need the name of the company. We
- 6 can look it up afterward, but it's missing. And
- 7 then, two lines below that it talks about,
- 8 "Inclusionary housing since the early 1190s." I
- 9 think what she meant to say was "1990s." And
- 10 then, if you flip onto the last page, in the first
- 11 paragraph, the third line down, it says,
- "Mr. Espasa stated, 'That was of no concern. It
- was about pesticides running into the brook
- 14 water.'" I don't think that's what he said. I
- 15 think he said that -- and we can look it up -- but
- 16 I think he said that he would tell the contractor
- who deals with the landscaping not to dump
- 18 pesticides in the brook water, which is different
- 19 than saying it's of no concern. Because it is a
- 20 concern. So that was that correction. And then
- in the second full paragraph, she has, "Lastly,
- David, comma, a resident Westfield." We need the
- last name.
- So I think going forward having the
- 25 exact transcript, we won't have to go through

- 1 this. Thanks, Maria. And welcome, Maria.
- MS. BREIEN: Thank you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN ASH: The, LLC is Westfield
- 4 Park Partners, LLC. We'll add that to revised
- 5 minutes. We'll add that revision to reflect early
- 6 1990s. And we will include the revision to the
- 7 statement about runoff and the pesticides. And
- 8 I'm not sure if we know David's last. I don't
- 9 recall, but maybe we can --
- 10 MR. SAMMET: It's likely she
- 11 couldn't understand it from the recording. We'll
- 12 check.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Do you want to
- 14 double-check? We can table these minutes until we
- 15 have that revision.
- 16 MR. SAMMET: Or we could just add it
- in. Yeah. We'll listen to the recording and have
- 18 Kristine check her notes. Otherwise, we may just
- 19 have to -- if we don't have it, we may just have
- 20 to state it as, "Resident of Westfield. Name
- 21 could not be understood." Something like that.
- 22 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. So we'll
- just revise it as we'll just kind of add a blank
- there, and to the extent that we can, fill in that
- 25 blank re-reviewing the recording, then we'll treat

- 1 it that way.
- 2 A motion to approve the minutes of
- 3 December 6, 2021, with the revisions identified by
- 4 Ann Freedman unless there are any other revisions,
- 5 questions or comments. Do we have a second?
- MR. LAPLACE: I'll second.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Second by Mr. LaPlace.
- 8 I'm sorry, who made the motion.
- 9 CHAIRMAN ASH: I moved.
- 10 MR. SAMMET: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 11 CHAIRMAN ASH: All those in favor.
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any opposed. And
- 14 we'll note that Councilman Dardia abstained since
- 15 he was not --
- MS. JANSVELD: Actually, I should
- 17 abstain too. I wasn't there in December.
- 18 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Two
- 19 abstentions. All right. Thank you. So we have a
- resolution from PB19-02.
- MR. SAMMET: I think the resolution,
- Mr. Chairman, is Application Number PB18-10. The
- 23 Schnitzers at 885 New England Drive.
- 24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes. Any questions
- or comments about the resolution?

- 1 MR. SAMMET: The abstentions would
- 2 need to be the same on this; Councilman Dardia and
- 3 Ms. Jansveld.
- 4 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Well, if
- 5 there're no questions or comments, I'll move to
- 6 adopt the resolution for PB18-10.
- 7 MR. CEBERIO: I'll second.
- 8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Let's
- 9 have a roll call, please.
- 10 MR. SAMMET: Chairman Ash.
- 11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mayor Brindle.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Ceberio.
- MR. CEBERIO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Councilman Dardia,
- 17 abstained. Ms. Harrison.
- MS. HARRISON: PB18-10 is New
- 19 England Drive?
- MR. SAMMET: Yes.
- 21 MS. HARRISON: I don't know how to
- 22 -- as silly as it sounds.
- CHAIRMAN ASH: Vote it, no.
- MS. HARRISON: I vote it, no. What
- do I, continue to vote no?

- 1 MR. TREMBULAK: You shouldn't vote
- on the resolution if you're voting --
- MS. HARRISON: Okay. That's what I
- 4 thought. I abstain.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Goldstein.
- MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Jansveld, you need
- 8 to abstain. Mr. LaPlace.
- 9 MR. LA PLACE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: And Ms. Carreras.
- MS. CARRERAS: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Freedman.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: And Chief Tiller is
- absent.
- 16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Thank you.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Thank you very much.
- 18 CHAIRMAN ASH: That takes us to our
- 19 appeals this evening. The appeal on PB21-09,
- 20 522 Springfield Avenue. That is being carried to
- 21 February 7; is that right, Don?
- MR. SAMMET: That's correct. The
- applicant was unable to make this evening's
- special meeting, so they have re-noticed for the
- February 7 meeting.

- 1 CHAIRMAN ASH: And will that be an
- in-person meeting?
- 3 MR. SAMMET: No, Mr. Chairman. We
- 4 had to -- we advertised it for virtual as we were
- 5 unsure if we'd be able to be live or in-person
- 6 again. So February 7 will be virtual.
- 7 CHAIRMAN ASH: For the benefit of
- 8 the board and for the public in attendance, we'll
- 9 clarify that PB21-09 will be carried to
- 10 February 7, and it also will be a virtual meeting.
- 11 And we'll make the same announcement for PB19-02,
- and that is the 873 New England Drive application
- is also carried to February 7.
- 14 New business for the board this
- 15 evening is PB21-11. That is 552-556 North Avenue
- 16 East and 560 North Avenue East. This application
- is seeking to renovate and expand the former TD
- 18 Bank for use as a liquor store. I see Mr. Hehl is
- 19 joining us and there he is.
- 20 MR. HEHL: Great to see you all. I
- 21 see Tom. Again, great to see everyone. Since the
- last meeting, happy New Year. Welcome new board
- 23 members, welcome returning board members and board
- 24 professionals. Again, always a pleasure to deal
- with Mr. Ash. Again, thank you for taking the

- 1 helm as chair. And we have an esteemed counsel
- there who I've known for forty-something years.
- 3 It's good to see everyone. From our high school
- 4 days. But anyhow, so this is --
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Hehl, may I ask
- 6 before you start, I have Tom and Greq. I've added
- 7 them on. Is there anyone else with you? Is
- 8 Jim Watson here?
- 9 MR. HEHL: Jim should be here also.
- 10 And Mr. Patel, our client, should be floating
- 11 around.
- 12 MR. SAMMET: Yes. I see Mr. Patel.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: If we're all set with
- 14 the virtual format, if you want to give us an
- 15 overview.
- 16 MR. HEHL: Sure. Yeah. Thank you
- 17 very much, Mr. Chairman. This is an exciting
- 18 adaptive reuse. As you can see, we have a vacant
- 19 building that is now -- it actually has been
- 20 purchased by Mr. Patel and looking to convert it
- 21 to a House of Wine liquor store. It's permitted
- use in the zone. You will see from Mr. Blasi's
- 23 exhibits, making some nice aesthetic improvements
- 24 to the building. We did receive -- and Don is
- 25 always great about sending his memorandum -- we

- 1 have his memorandum from December 27. Again,
- 2 we're permitted use in the zone. We meet
- 3 practically all of the bulk criteria including
- 4 parking, setbacks, loading zone, and the like.
- 5 And Mr. Watson will cover it from a professional
- 6 planning standpoint. But I believe the only
- 7 variance associated with it is front-yard parking
- 8 which was previously granted with the other
- 9 approval. I did speak to Mr. Sammet, there was a
- 10 request to add a wall sign, but that would trigger
- 11 a variance which we didn't notice for. So we'll
- probably be back before the board when Mr. Patel
- evaluates the signage and appear back for an
- amended approval with the signage.
- 15 Again, he's closed on the property
- 16 and would like to move forward with this project.
- 17 And again, Dom, we appreciate when you provide
- these detailed memos because it's a big help for
- our professionals. So that's an overview of the
- 20 application, Mr. Chairman. If there are no
- 21 preliminary questions, we first have Mr. Quinn,
- 22 our site engineer. I see Michael LaPlace has his
- hand up.
- 24 MR. LAPLACE: Mr. Chair, may I ask a
- 25 question?

1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes. 2 MR. LAPLACE: Regarding that 3 front-yard parking variance, I just wanted to sort of state at the outset that I understand why it's 5 back before us even though it's an already existing situation. And I don't know if the 7 applicant had considered extending the building 8 forward towards North Avenue instead of enclosing 9 a drive-thru pavilion. I just wanted to state at 10 the outset that I really think that it was very 11 unfortunate that this board approved the variance 12 for front-yard parking when it did. Commerce Bank 13 was opening a lot of these branches throughout New 14 Jersey at the time, and some towns really held 15 them to doing a more urban-style building up to 16 the street, more pedestrian-oriented. I can think 17 one in Montclair where it was right on Bloomfield 18 Avenue and it wasn't set back. And I always thought it was very unfortunate, particularly as 19 20 you drive up and down North Avenue. We've seen 21 recent proposals where the buildings are up to the 22 sidewalk. But this one is perpetuating a variance, which I wish had never been granted. 23 24 don't understand the hardship of why cars had to 25 be in the front of this building. But

- 1 unfortunately, that's the situation we've
- 2 inherited. I guess my question is did the
- 3 applicant consider building out toward North
- 4 Avenue instead of perpetuating this variance
- 5 situation with the front-yard parking?
- MR. HEHL: Well, certainly, that's
- 7 something we can address during the presentation
- 8 this evening.
- 9 MR. LAPLACE: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 MR. HEHL: Thank you, Mr. LaPlace.
- 11 I think -- yes, there's Mr. Quinn. If we could
- 12 please Have Mr. Quinn sworn.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Good evening,
- 14 Mr. Quinn.
- 15 TOM QUINN, having been duly sworn,
- 16 was examined and testified as follows:
- 17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Let's quickly go
- 18 through Mr. Quinn's qualifications.
- 19 BY MR. HEHL:
- 20 Q. Sure. Mr. Quinn, if you could
- 21 please give the board the benefit of your work,
- 22 educational experience, area of expertise. And I
- 23 know you have, in fact, testified before this
- 24 board in the past.
- 25 A. Numerous times, yes. I'm a 1993

- 1 graduate of NJIT. I'm received my PE license in
- the State of New Jersey in 1997, so I've been
- 3 practicing civil engineering for 25 years. And
- 4 I've presented through -- done just this sort of
- 5 work, site development in numerous towns.
- 6 Westfield, numerous times. Dozens and dozens of
- 7 towns every year.
- 8 Q. And your licenses are in full force
- 9 and effect at this time?
- 10 A. Yes, it is. Thank you.
- 11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Any
- 12 questions from the board as to Mr. Quinn's
- qualifications or experience? All right. We'll
- 14 accept your qualifications.
- 15 BY MR. HEHL:
- 16 Q. Thank you very much. Mr. Quinn, if
- 17 you could provide an overview of the existing
- 18 conditions at the site and then we can move onto
- what's proposed by way of improvement including
- building, lighting, landscaping, drainage of like.
- 21 A. Sure. I'm going to go ahead and
- 22 share my screen.
- 23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. There's a
- 24 question from --
- 25 MR. QUINN: Can you all see that?

- 1 CHAIRMAN ASH: We can. Are these
- 2 plans also available on the town website, Don?
- MR. CEBERIO: They are.
- 4 CHAIRMAN ASH: If someone has that
- 5 up on their screen, would you be able to put the
- 6 link in the chat? I'll see if I can quickly find
- 7 it. Thanks, Don.
- 8 MR. QUINN: Let me know when you
- 9 want me to start.
- 10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Please continue.
- 11 MR. QUINN: Okay. Just so we're all
- 12 looking at the same set of drawings, this is the
- 13 that the board should have had delivered to it
- dated 9/9/2021, existing of seven sheets including
- 15 a 1-of-1, which is the existing conditions plan.
- 16 For the record, we're talking about actually two
- parcels identified as Tax Lots 1.03 and 1.04,
- 18 Block 3305. They're highlighted in the center of
- 19 the key map here. They're also located in the
- 20 GB-2 Zone, which runs along here. They are
- 21 bounded to the north by North Avenue East and a
- residential area. To the east and west by
- commercial properties. To the south by the
- 24 Raritan Valley railroad line. And additional
- 25 commercial properties further south beyond that.

- 1 I'm going to go to the existing conditions plan.
- 2 For some reason, it's looking very light. But let
- 3 me zoom in on this a little bit. Can you guys see
- 4 that now?
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Yeah.
- 6 MR. QUINN: I'm going to bring this
- 7 in a little tighter. Essentially, what we're
- 8 looking at here is a snapshot of the site as it is
- 9 today. It was formally -- well, the last that
- 10 I've seen was the old Commerce Bank site. You see
- 11 the building located pretty much in the center of
- 12 the site. To the north, is North Avenue East.
- 13 Basically, the site has a single ingress drive and
- 14 loop parking and circulation aisle. Parking is
- 15 basically located to the north and the west side
- 16 of the building. The south and east side of the
- 17 building provide the circulation aisles for the
- drive-thru that formerly existed there.
- 19 Again, the site is pretty much fully
- 20 developed in its current condition for the use it
- 21 was in that there is some drainage facilities on
- the site. There's also lighting on the site.
- There's not a lot of natural landscaping but there
- are some trees located along the property
- 25 frontage. And I have a couple of aerials I can

- 1 share with you on that. But the thing that we
- 2 looked at in particular was the lighting on the
- 3 site. There's a total of 10 freestanding lights
- 4 scattered about throughout the site now. They're
- 5 all LED lights. Typically, bank sites are well
- 6 lit. So while I didn't do any light measurements
- 7 out there, I anticipate that the existing lighting
- 8 is certainly adequate for the use that we're
- 9 proposing if it's adequate for the use of a bank
- 10 site. In the current situation, as you heard
- 11 talk, the only existing violation for
- 12 nonconformity is parking in the front yard here.
- 13 The existing building represents about 10 percent
- on its lot coverage, where 40 percent is
- 15 permitted. And the existing impervious cover is
- 16 57.7 percent currently, where 90 percent is
- 17 permitted. I'll zoom out a little bit. Just to
- 18 give a sense for -- I don't know why it keeps
- 19 doing that. North Avenue, again a single accessed
- lane coming in a single drive in. And then a twin
- lane coming out onto North Avenue.
- Now, I'm going to go back to the
- 23 proposal. What you see here is an extension of
- the existing building. This is a proposed
- one-story addition, which is approximately 3,000

- 1 square feet. I'll let the architect get into a
- 2 little more detail. As you see, that's appended
- 3 onto the existing building, which if memory serves
- 4 me correctly, is about 4,042 or 4,400 square feet.
- 5 The area that the building footprint is situated
- is the old drive-thru aisles. You see them
- 7 ghosted underneath. And can you see the edge out
- 8 here, the existing edge of the impervious cover
- 9 which is the outermost drive aisle. So a lot of
- 10 this development is in an area of existing
- impervious cover. We've maintained the
- 12 circulation parking lot to the north and to the
- west, and even largely to the south. But we've
- 14 taken the opportunity to add some loading spaces
- 15 here. These are 12-by-35 loading stalls.
- 16 Typically, these kinds of users, the beverage
- trucks that are associated with this kind of use,
- 18 they're typically between 25 and 35 feet long. So
- this spacing, 35 foot, is ample for the use that's
- 20 proposed here. And that does provide an 18-foot
- 21 drive aisle, which is adequate for emergency
- 22 vehicles with a vehicle parked -- any one of these
- vehicles parked. And the one-way circulation is
- 24 maintained throughout here. So once you get to
- 25 the back loading area, we have constructed a

- 1 bypass drive that takes you back out to the exit
- 2 drive. In order to affect this bypass drive, it
- 3 is located in a high part of the site, as I'll
- 4 show on the grading plan. We do have a little bit
- of a retaining wall located a couple of feet off
- 6 the property line that never exceeds 2 feet in
- 7 height.
- 8 I'll get through the rest of the
- 9 drawings. P-3, the grading plan. Again, what
- 10 this shows is that we've maintained this high
- 11 spot. In the existing condition, the edge of the
- 12 existing drive, immediately to the east of that is
- 13 a knob, a bit of a hill. Probably some dirt that
- 14 was left over when they constructed the site. So
- 15 we're taking advantage of that and elevating this
- 16 drive portion past the building and constructing
- this retaining wall here, which permits that again
- 18 maximum height is 2 two tall which is located in
- 19 this corner. We are constructing a little over
- 20 2,000 square foot of additional impervious cover.
- 21 About 2,200 square feet, which is a minor
- development status. So what we've done is we've
- 23 taken the opportunity -- because we have a
- 24 relatively high spot here where the driveway is --
- we've taken the opportunity to grab an equivalent

- 1 area of the existing building -- well, actually
- 2 the proposed addition and whatever of the existing
- 3 building we need -- but an equivalent area.
- 4 Actually, it says here 2,335 square feet. So
- 5 we've taken an equivalent area of impervious cover
- 6 increased, directed it into these dry wells.
- 7 We've relocated -- I'll zoom out a little bit --
- 8 the existing inlet. There was one here and then
- 9 there is one here then a pipe that connects them
- 10 through the old drive-thru. So you can see, we
- 11 have rerouted that pipe. We've taken the dry well
- 12 inflow and then back out into this manhole to the
- discharge point that was formally there. These
- dry wells because this whole area is defined as
- 15 urban land in the soil's survey. And I know just
- 16 from experience that most of Westfield, this
- portion, in particular, doesn't exhibit really
- 18 permeable soils. We designed this dry well to
- 19 have a bottom-out feature. So while it's a dry
- 20 well in a traditional system, in the sense that
- it's open. You know, it's pits with holes in a
- stone matrix so that there is opportunity for
- infiltration to the degree that the soils will
- 24 permit it, it doesn't rely on infiltration. We do
- 25 -- and I'll show you a detail of that -- we have a

- 1 bottom pipe out with a one-inch cap that assures
- 2 that this thing will evacuate. Very slowly so it
- doesn't cause any kind of flooding, but it does
- 4 assure continued evacuation so that it continues
- 5 to function.
- 6 I'll zoom out a little and go to
- 7 Sheet 4, which is landscaping lighting plan. As I
- 8 indicated, there are -- there's not a ton of
- 9 vegetation on the site. There are I think five
- 10 mature trees. Three on this island and one of
- 11 either end of these drives. And there's a couple
- 12 scattered out on the islands on the south.
- 13 There's a pretty heavy vegetated area behind that
- 14 separates the store from the Raritan Valley. And
- 15 here again, there're green areas here that have
- 16 some landscaping, but not a lot. What we've done
- is we've taken the opportunity to dress up the
- 18 building. The existing building also doesn't have
- 19 a lot of landscaping. Since we're adding a
- 20 relatively long structure, it made sense to soften
- 21 it with foundation plantings. So basically, we've
- layered this. We have evergreens immediately
- along the building facade. Boxwoods mostly where
- there are windows so that they're shorter. And
- 25 Sky Pencil hollies, which are taller, slender at

- 1 the column areas where there are no windows. The
- 2 same pattern is along here. In front of that,
- 3 we've supplemented daylilies, purple coneflowers,
- 4 which are like a type of sunflower, and some
- 5 lamb's ear. These are all proven to be hardy and
- 6 relatively pretty flowering interests and textural
- 7 interests for the lamb's ear.
- 8 This plan also shows the only lights
- 9 that we're adding are the two on the building.
- 10 And essentially, that is meant to light the
- impervious cover that we're creating. There is an
- 12 existing light right here that takes care of the
- overlap. And there are also two existing lights.
- One located here, and one located here that will
- 15 overlap this area. So we've only added two lights
- on the building mounted 15-feet tall. Again,
- downward-throw LEDs to really light the area where
- 18 we've pushed the driveway aisle past the building.
- 19 Essentially, those are the high points. The rest
- of the set consists of control plans.
- The one thing I did want to show you
- 22 was the, since we talked about it, the proposed
- 23 dry well configuration. This is where --
- typically, in a typical dry well, it's all
- 25 infiltration. So your invert -- your invert in

- 1 and your invert out are at the top elevation. And
- 2 it replenishes through infiltration. Again, we
- 3 know enough in certain areas where we provide this
- 4 bottom drain, which is attached to the top drain.
- 5 So that this thing -- even if the soils are not
- 6 great -- these things fill up and then overflow.
- 7 But this one-inch cap assure that this will work
- 8 its way down and infiltrate as much as it can
- 9 while still evacuating fully to replenish itself
- 10 the next rain event. So that's a little something
- 11 we do when we expect the soil is not great.
- The only other thing I would mention
- is we do show a trash enclosure. And that is -- I
- 14 think Don's letter had asked what the enclosure
- 15 was to be, and it's a vinyl fence. Which is
- 16 basically shown right here. Again, those are the
- 17 highlights of the plan. I did go through Don's
- 18 letter. I don't know that there's a lot for me to
- discuss on here unless there are clarifications
- 20 that Don wants me to make. I think I tried to
- 21 touch on some of the items that he outlined in his
- letter when I went through my presentation.
- 23 That's all the direct testimony that I have.
- 24 BY MR. HEHL:
- Q. Mr. Quinn, just another item, and I

- 1 know we discussed this during our preparation,
- 2 that the applicant is committed to the electric
- 3 charging.
- 4 A. Yes. You know what I did forget
- 5 though, thank you, there's something else; the
- 6 sign. I didn't touch on -- I've highlighted now
- 7 the sign here is on the westerly side of the
- 8 ingress drive. Here there's an exiting sign that
- 9 is going to be repurposed by the applicant. This
- 10 one has ground lights. Basically, ground light
- 11 bars that shine up at this sign, and the sign goes
- 12 all the way down to the ground. So when we do
- these with these ground-mounted lights, I'm always
- 14 concerned about glare and visibility on a roadway.
- 15 But this one -- we're going to maintain what
- 16 they've got here, that was handled pretty well.
- 17 It's just going to be rebranded for the particular
- 18 user.
- 19 Q. And I know you discussed the trash
- 20 enclosure, the lighting.
- MR. HEHL: And Mr. Sammet, I wanted
- 22 to know, did you need further explanation? I know
- on Page 6, Item Number 1 on the top on the other
- comments, you wanted information regarding the
- 25 grading and drainage.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Right. And Mr. Quinn
- 2 did touch upon that. I would defer, however, to
- 3 our board engineer, Mr. Battaglia, if he has
- 4 further questions regarding the drainage plan or
- 5 the grading.
- MR. BATTAGLIA: I have been no
- 7 further questions. Everything is outlined in my
- 8 letter. And I think you've provided enough
- 9 testimony to satisfy those concerns.
- 10 MR. HEHL: Great. Thank you. With
- 11 that, I have no further preliminary questions of
- 12 Mr. Quinn at this time.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Mr. Quinn.
- 14 I'll turn it over to members of the board. Anyone
- 15 have any questions or comments?
- 16 MS. FREEDMAN: I do. Mr. Chairman,
- 17 I had a few questions about the traffic or are you
- 18 going to be talking about that later?
- MR. QUINN: You mean traffic out on
- the roadway, ma'am?
- MS. FREEDMAN: The entrance and the
- 22 exit. It looks like you have one entrance on the
- 23 -- I guess that's the west side?
- MR. QUINN: Correct.
- 25 MS. FREEDMAN: And then you have on

- 1 the east side you have an entrance and an exit.
- 2 Is that the current -- when the bank was there,
- 3 was that how it was set up?
- 4 MR. QUINN: No. The way it's set up
- 5 it's an ingress drive only on the westerly side.
- 6 This is only in. And the egress drive only on the
- 7 easterly side. But because I think the
- 8 recognition that making a left would necessarily
- 9 cue traffic trying to make a right, which is an
- 10 easier movement, they're already split this into a
- 11 left and right directional egress only. We're
- 12 going to maintain that. And so you're aware, this
- 13 is actually under state jurisdiction. So what we
- do on these cases where we're changing the use, we
- 15 make sure that we do what we have -- but there's a
- 16 lot of conformance calculation that's performed.
- 17 It makes sure that there're no trip limitations on
- 18 the lot per the DOT. So in other words, every
- 19 lot, based on its configuration, has a certain
- 20 number of trips that it's limited to. This lot,
- 21 we checked when we were doing this layout with the
- 22 dynamic traffic consulting engineer to make that
- we had no issues with lot performance from the DOT
- 24 standpoint, and he said no. This is basically the
- 25 DOT -- there're no DOT permits even required for

- 1 this since we're not in the right-of-way. At the
- 2 very least, what they would do is give you a
- 3 Letter of No Interest, if that's a requirement.
- 4 MS. FREEDMAN: Okay. Because on the
- 5 plan, you can't tell because there are no arrows
- 6 at the entrance and the exit. I assumed that
- 7 but...
- 8 MR. QUINN: They're kind of ghosted.
- 9 You can kind of see them underneath here.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Oh, yeah. Got it.
- 11 MR. QUINN: It's a little faint. I
- do apologize for that. It's underneath, it's kind
- 13 of faint.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Okay. Thank you.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: Mr. Quinn --
- 16 Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question? I'm not sure
- if you're the person to direct this. I live
- around the corner from this, I could walk to this
- 19 wine store. So I'm intimately familiar with
- 20 traffic patterns and everything else. And I don't
- 21 have to tell you North Avenue can be a nightmare.
- When I commuted, my bus stop was across the
- 23 street. It would often take me -- it could take
- 10 minutes just to cross the street as a
- 25 pedestrian. What are the traffic -- I just am

- 1 curious about the traffic pattern's busy times of
- 2 day. You know, it seems like this would drive a
- 3 lot more traffic in and out than a bank would. Am
- 4 I'm just wondering what you're all anticipating
- 5 about that and if there are certain times of day
- or days where you would see the heaviest amounts
- of traffic. I mean I can kind of conjecture, it's
- 8 a liquor store, but maybe you can comment on that.
- 9 MR. QUINN: Now again, I'm not a
- 10 traffic expert, but I've done enough of these
- 11 applications that I've heard enough traffic
- 12 testimony. I do know I spoke to Craig Peregoy.
- 13 As a matter of fact, any time we have an
- 14 application like this on a state road we always do
- 15 a lot performance, make sure we have no issues.
- 16 What Craig told me was that this liquor store
- 17 generation is actually less than a bank.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: Really.
- MR. QUINN: It tends to be spread
- 20 out a little more because maybe people will leave
- 21 from work in the middle of the day to go to a
- 22 bank, whereas with a liquor store they tend to go
- 23 to or from their work or place. They don't make a
- 24 special trip often to go to a liquor store. In
- 25 terms of just trip generation, this particular

- 1 user apparently generates less trips per day, per
- 2 peak hour than a bank would. Which is why we're
- 3 eligible for a Letter of No Interest and the DOT
- 4 has no issue with the lot performance. But that's
- 5 about as far as I have as much expertise as I have
- 6 in that area.
- 7 MAYOR BRINDLE: And it's very smart
- 8 to split that exit because that left on North
- 9 Avenue can be a real bear.
- 10 MR. QUINN: That was done when the
- 11 bank was there, I'm certain. There was no way the
- bank and anybody else would ever get that changed.
- 13 That made good sense to keep.
- 14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Vice-Chairman had
- 15 his hand up.
- 16 MR. LAPLACE: I was showing off that
- I know how to use the little hand thing. I'd like
- 18 to get back to the guestion I asked at the
- 19 beginning. Was there consideration by the
- applicant to add to the building going north
- 21 toward North Avenue instead of perpetuating this
- so you're sort of strip-shopping center pattern of
- the building set back behind front-yard parking?
- MR. QUINN: To be honest, I'm not
- 25 sure that I -- normally, these things -- by the

- time the engineer gets it the building is already
- 2 set and we work around the building. So to be
- 3 honest, I wasn't involved in the planning. And
- 4 typically, engineering officers are not planning
- 5 associated with the building unless it's a brand
- 6 new site. But in this case, I really can't tell
- you from my perspective what, if any, thought went
- 8 into it. I think they were just trying to utilize
- 9 as much of the existing site as possible.
- 10 MR. LAPLACE: Is there someone else
- 11 that will be testifying tonight that can answer?
- 12 MR. QUINN: We have an architect
- here. I know they may shed light on that.
- 14 MR. HEHL: Yeah. I think our
- 15 architect will touch on that building layout
- 16 design and the like.
- MR. LAPLACE: Okay. I have some
- 18 questions about circulation. I don't really
- 19 understand how it works in the back. It those are
- loading areas, if the trucks or whatever are
- 21 coming in forward from that entrance and then
- they're looping behind the building, they're not
- 23 backing into those loading docks, they're going
- forward? Is that how it works?
- 25 MR. QUINN: Beverage vehicles, they

- discharge from the side. They're not like bigger
- 2 trailers where they have everything that comes off
- 3 the back of the truck.
- 4 MR. LAPLACE: They don't need to
- 5 turn around back there?
- MR. QUINN: No. No. They'll back up
- 7 this way, and then this is all designed -- this is
- 8 all ready for them to get out. They'll have no
- 9 issue with that maneuver. And it's only trucks
- 10 getting back here. The main parking area is --
- MR. LAPLACE: Sure because everybody
- is parking in the front yard.
- 13 (Crosstalk.)
- MR. QUINN: When here, you can back
- 15 out and go this way. There's no precluding you
- 16 from going --
- 17 MR. LAPLACE: I have a question
- 18 about that new easterly drive. It seems awfully
- 19 close to the property line. I don't know, maybe
- 20 Don can answer there or someone can. What's the
- 21 setback requirement for that new drive lane from
- the side property line and do you meet it?
- 23 MR. SAMMET: There is no setback
- 24 requirement.
- MR. LAPLACE: So that lane can go

- 1 right up to the -- oh, wow.
- MR. QUINN: Just so you can see,
- 3 from the face of the curb to the property line is
- 4 7 seven feet, roughly. And then we've given a
- 5 little bit of space here to put a shorter
- 6 retaining wall just to make the break rather than
- 7 putting a slope. We just made a -- it seemed a
- 8 softer slope to just put a short retaining wall.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: I may have to take that
- 10 back, Mr. Vice-chair. Maybe 2 feet.
- 11 MAYOR BRINDLE: And Michael, that's
- 12 Top Line Appliance over there?
- MR. QUINN: Yes.
- 14 MAYOR BRINDLE: And that whole side
- is surface parking.
- 16 MR. LAPLACE: Usually, I know other
- 17 codes where there is more of a setback
- 18 requirement. That's what I was thinking about.
- 19 The last thing I'll ask right now is in the front.
- MR. QUINN: So you see that? I
- 21 think that's what the mayor was talking about.
- 22 Right here, top line. Can you guys see this map
- 23 now? I tried jumping to Google Maps, but I had to
- 24 stop sharing.
- MR. LAPLACE: It's okay. As long as

- 1 it's in conformance.
- MR. QUINN: Yup. Yup. I had Google
- 3 Maps on here but I had to stop sharing to bring it
- 4 up to show you.
- 5 MR. LAPLACE: The last thing I would
- 6 say, and it's more of a comment than a question is
- 7 if we have to live with this front-yard parking,
- 8 I'd really like to see to the landscaping between
- 9 the sidewalk and the front property line in the
- 10 parking area to be enhanced as much as possible
- 11 for screening purposes. Okay. Thanks.
- MR. HEHL: By the way, Mr. LaPlace,
- the applicant is going to testify. I can't
- imagine with the investment that he's making here
- that he would not be agreeable to that.
- 16 Mr. Quinn, not to put you on the spot, but don't
- 17 we -- we can have the applicant -- but just, I
- assume that there's room in that area to provide
- the additional landscaping and enhance that area?
- MR. QUINN: Yeah. Even on our
- 21 portion of -- we've got 10 feet between the curb
- line and the right-of-way to work with here.
- MR. LAPLACE: Good. Is there room
- 24 for additional street trees as well along the
- 25 curb?

- 1 MR. QUINN: To be honest, there are
- 2 -- I was going to show you that on Google Earth,
- 3 but there are three street trees in there and then
- 4 there's one on either end. So I don't know that
- 5 street trees would be optimal there. I think some
- fill in between those, ornamentals.
- 7 MR. LAPLACE: Okay. That's fine. I
- 8 just wanted to make sure the team looked at it.
- 9 Thank you.
- 10 MR. QUINN: Yeah. And I'm happy to
- 11 take Don's suggestions when we looked at it, but
- 12 that was my -- when I looked at the Google
- imageries, there seemed to be a good number of
- 14 shade trees. It seemed like more than that on
- these islands would be pressing it.
- 16 MR. LAPLACE: Okay. Thank you.
- MR. HEHL: No, thank you.
- 18 Again, I have no further direct
- 19 questions of Mr. Quinn at this time. I guess it's
- 20 still open for the board. I'm sorry.
- 21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Councilman Dardia.
- MR. DARDIA: Thank you, Chairman.
- 23 Related to what Mr. LaPlace just eluded to, in
- 24 terms of that driveway that comes from the rear to
- 25 the front, I'm curious about the exits or

- entrances for the actual store. Where are they?
- 2 And can you point out other exits, emergency
- 3 exits, anything that may -- if you've got an exit
- 4 that's there in the proposed one-story addition,
- 5 where is that? Does it lead to that driveway?
- 6 MR. QUINN: This is probably better
- 7 discussed by the architect. But I could tell you
- 8 that the existing entrance is being maintained
- 9 that's in the front of the store. There is an
- 10 existing exit out in the back that we're also
- 11 maintaining. There are two additional doors that
- are located on the easterly end of the building.
- 13 This one attached to the sidewalk that goes out
- 14 front and this one out to the rear. But again,
- 15 more detail on that probably is better directed --
- 16 because he'll pull up the plans, the actual floor
- 17 plans, and show you where things are.
- MR. DARDIA: Thank you.
- MR. HEHL: Thank you, Councilman.
- 20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Anyone other members
- of the board with questions or comments for
- 22 Mr. Quinn?
- MS. CARRERAS: I just had a general
- 24 note that I wanted to make sure that this was
- 25 picked up. That Note 21 talks about existing Lots

- 1 1.03 and 1.05, but we're talking about Lots 1.03
- 2 and 1.04.
- 3 MR. QUINN: That's what our note
- 4 says?
- 5 MS. CARRERAS: Yes. Your Note 21,
- 6 and it's on a couple of pages.
- 7 MR. HEHL: Yeah. That was pointed
- 8 out.
- 9 MS. CARRERAS: I just want to make
- 10 sure.
- MR. QUINN: Thank you for that.
- 12 MR. HEHL: We are going to be -- I
- 13 think, Don, one of the comments was about lot
- 14 consolidation.
- 15 MR. QUINN: We're showing that,
- 16 actually. You see that here. The two lots are
- 17 55,000 square feet, so we are showing that to be
- 18 consolidated.
- 19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. If there
- are no other members of the board with questions
- or comments let's turn it over to members of the
- 22 public in attendance. At this time, you have an
- opportunity to ask questions of Mr. Quinn, based
- on the plan he has presented and his testimony
- 25 this evening. Don, if you could please check the

- 1 participants and see if there are any hands
- 2 virtually raised.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Yes, sir, we have them
- 4 coming in. Anyone with questions of Mr. Quinn,
- 5 please virtually raise your hand and we'll allow
- 6 you to speak. I see Ms. Diane Brescher.
- 7 MS. BRESCHER: Can you hear me?
- 8 MR. SAMMET: We can hear you, yes,
- 9 Ms. Brescher.
- 10 CHAIRMAN ASH: Hi, welcome.
- 11 MS. BRESCHER: I live right at the
- 12 corner of 4th Avenue and --
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: If you wouldn't mind,
- 14 again, for the record because we're going to have
- 15 a transcript, just state your full name and your
- 16 address, please.
- MS. BRESCHER: Diane Brescher.
- 18 606 4th Avenue.
- 19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you very much.
- 20 Go ahead.
- MS. BRESCHER: I sort of missed
- 22 Shelly's question around the traffic. The traffic
- on North Avenue is atrocious and it's only going
- 24 to get worse. It may not matter to people that
- don't kind of live right there, but I work from

- 1 home most days, and make a left, making a right on
- 2 North Avenue can be brutal. So I'm trying to
- 3 understand and I can really barely read the -- you
- 4 know, it really very hard to see the plans. So
- 5 I'm just trying to understand what's going to
- 6 happen. Like when you were talking about the
- 7 exits, can you explain that again? The entrance
- 8 and the exits to this new proposed liquor store.
- 9 MR. QUINN: Yes, ma'am. We're
- 10 utilizing the existing driveway cuts that are
- 11 currently on North Avenue in the configuration
- 12 that they currently exist. The westerly-most
- driveway is an ingress only. Only into the site.
- 14 You can't come out this way. The easterly-most
- 15 driveway is a double-wide double egress. Which
- 16 means that it's got a directional egress; one lane
- 17 to the right, one lane to the left. And this was
- 18 no doubt affected when the bank application came
- 19 through and it was probably something that the
- 20 county or the state required because in
- 21 acknowledgment that a left is going to be
- 22 difficult to make, and a right will move quicker.
- 23 So that configuration of driveway that worked for
- the bank is what we're maintaining.
- 25 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you,

- 1 Ms. Brescher. Do you have a follow-up question?
- 2 MR. SAMMET: It looks like
- 3 Ms. Brescher does not. Does anyone else have
- 4 questions for Mr. Quinn? If you would virtually
- 5 please raise your hand. I saw a hand go up a
- down, so I want to make sure everyone gets their
- 7 opportunity.
- 8 CHAIRMAN ASH: I see a hand going up
- 9 and down.
- 10 MR. SAMMET: Up and down and it's
- 11 like a split second.
- 12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Going once.
- MR. SAMMET: Here we go again --
- there we go. The Arezzi's. To the Arezzi's, we
- 15 should be able to hear your now if you would like
- 16 to ask your question.
- 17 CHAIRMAN ASH: Just please state
- 18 your full name and address for the record.
- MR. SAMMET: I don't see that you
- are muted at all, so we should be able to hear
- 21 you.
- MR. AREZZI: Can you hear me now?
- 23 MR. SAMMET: Yes, we can. Thank
- 24 you.
- 25 MR. AREZZI: There was a little

- 1 popup in the corner that I had to take off. Thank
- 2 you for having me speak. I don't know if it's a
- 3 general comment, but I live across the street,
- 4 North Avenue, the residential section where
- 5 Westfield is so beautiful for children. I have a
- 6 nine-year-old. I live at 606 4th Avenue on the
- 7 corner there. I cannot believe that there's no
- 8 difference in pedestrian customer traffic from a
- 9 bank to a liquor store. I have been here for
- 10 about five years and the bank is beautiful. It
- 11 has maybe three cars in there, five cars. Nobody
- 12 speaking, nobody yelling, no cases, no bottles, no
- 13 carts, no shopping carts, no truck deliveries.
- 14 You're doubling -- well, you're not doubling, but
- 15 you're significantly increasing the size of the
- 16 building. The occupancy has to significantly
- 17 increase. The customers inside the store have to
- 18 increase more than a bank. You're going to have a
- 19 lot more traffic coming in and out of there. I
- 20 have 25 years of a retired police officer. I was
- in charge of traffic. I cannot say that I'm an
- 22 expert in this area here in this situation. But
- 23 you have a different clientele, you have different
- customers, you have a noise level that increases,
- 25 you have deliveries. I think in some of the

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1
      liquor stores now they have drive-ups where they
 2
      come out and pick up their items there. I just
 3
      don't understand where I think Mr. Quinn said it
      shouldn't increase the traffic. I don't really
 5
      see that. I can't understand how that doesn't
 6
      significantly increase everything; pedestrians,
 7
      customers, cars, trucks, everything.
                                            Thank vou.
 8
                   MR. QUINN: Sir, I just want to
 9
      clarify. What I said was -- and again, this was
10
      part of a lot conformance we did with the DOT
11
      consultant. He said the liquor store would not
12
      generate more trips for peak hours than the bank,
13
      is what he said. Otherwise, we'd have an issue
14
      with DOT. Again, that's as far as I can go with
15
      traffic testimony. The other thing that I can say
16
      is that it's a permitted use. So from a traffic
17
      standpoint, any permitted use is assumed to be in
18
      an area where traffic can be handled. And again,
19
      we're trying to repurpose an existing commercial
20
      site. Yes, he's expanding the building a little
      bit more because he has inventory in a way that a
21
22
      bank doesn't have inventory. Their inventory is
23
      more tightly kept I think than a -- so I really
24
      was told that there would be no problem from a DOT
25
      standpoint, and there was no additional trip
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- 1 generation. And that's about as munch traffic
- 2 testimony as I can bring.
- 3 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Let me
- 4 jump in here. Mr. Hehl, I think you said the
- 5 applicant will provide some testimony and I expect
- 6 that will include a description of the business
- 7 and the operations and what the intent of the use
- 8 of this proposed liquor store will be; is that
- 9 right?
- MR. HEHL: Yes, that's correct.
- 11 CHAIRMAN ASH: We'll get that
- 12 testimony in a little bit. And Mr. Arezzi, you
- can ask questions about the operations of the
- 14 store of the property owner, the applicant. And
- 15 just to clarify the testimony about the traffic
- 16 generation. Mr. Quinn, understanding that you're
- 17 not a traffic engineer and had qualified you as an
- 18 expert in traffic engineering, but you did testify
- 19 that you reviewed the proposed use with the
- 20 engineer and you gave some technical terms about
- 21 no increase in trip generation during the peak
- 22 hour. Understanding you're not a traffic expert,
- 23 could you just please in plain terms explain what
- that means?
- 25 MR. OUINN: Sure. Yeah. And we

- didn't work with the county engineer, this
- 2 actually is part under the state jurisdiction.
- 3 What we typically do, since we're not county
- 4 engineers, we utilize a sub-consultant, Dynamic
- 5 Engineering. They do a lot of work, they've
- 6 probably been in Westfield a couple of times. So
- 7 when you're doing traffic tests, there's a book,
- 8 ITE, Institute of Transportation Engineers, that
- 9 these guys utilize as their bible. And it gives
- 10 you trip generations. That means how many trips
- 11 per peak hour, per square foot of a particular
- 12 use. And that you multiply the trip generation
- factored by the square foot of the building with
- 14 the use, it generates a number of peak hour trips.
- 15 That's how traffic engineers calculate what a peak
- 16 hour trip is. Trip generation is that fraction
- that is applied to the building. So that's what
- was related to me was that trip generation for a
- 19 liquor store is no greater than the trip
- 20 generation for the bank that was there, especially
- 21 with the drive-thru. The number of lanes in the
- drive-thru apparently has something to do with it.
- 23 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Thank you.
- Mr. Arezzi, if you're still there, do you have any
- 25 follow-up questions for Mr. Quinn?

- 1 MR. AREZZI: No, that's fine. Thank
- 2 you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Any other
- 4 members of the public have questions for Mr. Quinn
- 5 at this time? Ms. Brescher, I see your hand
- 6 again. Ms. Brescher? Don, can we unmute
- 7 Mr. Brescher again?
- 8 MS. BRESCHER: Can you hear me?
- 9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes.
- MS. BRESCHER: Super. Super. My
- 11 computer died, that's why I got cut off. I missed
- the answer, should I listen to the recording or
- can you just explain -- I guess what I'm more
- 14 concerned about is the right and the left there
- 15 with what I perceive as more traffic than a bank.
- MR. QUINN: We're talking about the
- 17 egress drive. I don't know where you --
- MS. BRESCHER: Yep. Yep.
- MR. QUINN: We have the single
- ingress and then the double egress drive.
- 21 MS. BRESCHER: That's how it is
- 22 today; correct?
- MR. QUINN: That is correct. That's
- how it is today. I'm sure that was hashed out
- when the bank application came through. At some

- 1 point, this driveway configuration had to be
- 2 worked out with the DOT, so that's why we thought
- 3 best not to change it. Particularly when our use
- 4 does not generate additional traffic.
- 5 MS. BRESCHER: What are the hours of
- 6 the liquor store?
- 7 MR. HEHL: We're going to have the
- 8 applicant testify to that.
- 9 MS. BRESCHER: Okay. Thank you.
- 10 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Let's
- 11 check our list of attendees. Anyone else? If you
- want to raise your hand and ask a question of
- 13 Mr. Quinn.
- MR. SAMMET: I see no one,
- 15 Mr. Chairman.
- 16 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Thank
- 17 you.
- MR. QUINN: I'll stop sharing?
- 19 CHAIRMAN ASH: Stop sharing. And
- 20 I'll turn it back to the board. Any follow-ups
- 21 before we excuse Mr. Quinn? All right. Thank
- 22 you.
- MR. QUINN: Thank you.
- 24 MR. HEHL: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to
- 25 then proceed to the testimony of our architect,

- 1 Mr. Greg Blasi. I see him on the screen.
- 2 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right.
- 3 Mr. Blasi.
- 4 MR. HEHL: You're muted I think,
- 5 Greq.
- MR. BLASI: Hello everyone.
- 7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Welcome back.
- 8 MR. BLASI: Thank you.
- 9 GREG BLASI, having been duly sworn,
- 10 was examined and testified as follows:
- 11 CHAIRMAN ASH: Mr. Blasi, you've
- been qualified as an expert in architecture for
- this board previously. Have your qualifications
- or licensing changed since your last appearance?
- MR. BLASI: It has not.
- 16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Anyone on the board
- 17 have any questions for Mr. Blasi about his
- 18 qualifications, his experience or licensure. All
- 19 right. You may proceed with your testimony as an
- 20 expert in architecture.
- 21 BY MR. HEHL:
- 22 Q. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Blasi,
- obviously, you're well familiar with the site
- 24 design and the design of the building and layout.
- 25 If you could take the board through the floor

- 1 plans and elevations. And then if you would also
- 2 address -- I know Mr. Sammet had some comments in
- 3 his review letter?
- 4 MR. BLASI: This is the first-floor
- 5 plan. What I'm circling around right now is the
- 6 existing portion of the building which was the
- 7 bank area, there was an office. And then with the
- 8 new area is where the drive-thru would be. I'm
- 9 taking out the open bank area. They're going to
- 10 create a new through -- coming through the
- 11 entrance, they're going to have a food court or
- 12 food area; refrigerators, shelving. And create
- 13 handicap toilets. Office space. You have the
- 14 main entrance. You have a secondary means of
- 15 egress through the back center area. There's more
- 16 shelving on the side. And there's refrigeration
- in the rear here. And there's a staircase that
- 18 leads down to the basement. So this creates the
- third means of egress. So main entry, secondary
- 20 means of egress, third means of egress. So
- 21 there're basically three means of egress. This is
- the checkout area. So entry, checkout area.
- The existing building, what I'd like
- 24 to say is it's only a 20-year-old building made
- 25 out of brick. It's all brick and glass. So you

- 1 have an existing brick wall, all glass, brick wall
- 2 -- brick pier -- glass, a lot of steel beams
- 3 holding up these big large open spaces, getting a
- 4 contemporary building newer. And then these large
- 5 brick piers here, brick. And then continuing with
- 6 the stylistic way -- which I'll show you in the
- 7 elevation -- is a pier, glass, pier, glass, pier,
- 8 and then changing to an all brick facade around
- 9 this egress area. I don't have the site plan, but
- 10 what I would like to address -- which I'm assuming
- 11 Mr. LaPlace was speaking about -- that the
- building creating an urban edge would be done by
- 13 keeping all in line with North Avenue.
- 14 Unfortunately, this building is set back and in by
- 15 creating, if were to build straight toward North
- 16 Avenue, we would basically be splitting the site
- in half creating almost two front side yard
- 18 parking areas and then the area to go around. So
- 19 the building is already set back, it does have
- trees, it does have vegetation, it does have
- 21 glass. I'm going to show you an elevation how the
- 22 materials of brick and glass are continued across
- 23 so that it looks like it was one intentional
- 24 monolithic structure to be built with the same
- 25 details of brick and glass. And to remove this

- 1 building, to remove this 4,000 square feet of
- 2 existing foundations of concrete and brick piers,
- 3 it makes sense to leave it here and add to the
- 4 side. I don't think building -- one way would be
- 5 tearing the building out, which I think is
- 6 unrealistic to owner doing it that way. But the
- 7 other is if we took the addition and built it
- 8 toward the front again, it would just split the
- 9 site in half and you would still be looking at two
- 10 parking lots on either side.
- I'm going to stop sharing this and
- go to the next, which is basically the foundation.
- 13 The foundation area, this is slab on grade; it's
- 14 going to remain. On the left side of the new
- 15 addition, there's going to be a proposed new
- 16 basement area. Pretty simple. I'm going to go to
- 17 the front elevation. The front elevation, as you
- 18 can see, by the uncolored area is the existing
- 19 brick. Brick pier, brick header across the top of
- 20 the building. This is the existing entry. This
- 21 is all glass in this area here. And then the new
- 22 addition is going to be brick to match, all glass
- 23 with brick above. It's going to be set back, just
- 24 like the setbacks in the existing building. This
- 25 area front entrance pulls forward. You have the

- 1 setback around the glass, new setback around the
- 2 glass areas here, pier, brick and glass, pier, and
- 3 then the side stair area. Across the top, to add
- 4 some scale and add some height, the existing
- 5 building stops which is a plain stone coursing
- that goes across here. Because the Commerce
- 7 Bank's stylistic architecture had a clear story
- 8 that popped up here is being removed. In order to
- 9 give the scale and use a noble material like the
- 10 brick, it will be a stucco parapet that will go
- 11 across the top with a precast stone to match the
- 12 existing precast stone on the building. So this
- 13 stone area here, precast, will match the existing
- 14 precast that's on the building here and here. The
- 15 brick matches and the color of the stucco will tie
- 16 it all together and create one building to appear
- 17 as though it was designed at one time.
- The rear of the building is
- 19 basically facing the train rail. It's brick.
- 20 This is the existing doors. So here is the
- 21 drive-thru that's being removed, so we're going to
- 22 continue the brick and that stucco band that goes
- 23 around the top. The side elevation -- this is the
- 24 existing side elevation to the right which has a
- 25 large area of glass, all brick, which will e

- 1 proposed stucco on top. And then the opposite
- 2 side, which faces Top Line, would be continue the
- 3 brick all the way around. Add two windows to add
- 4 light into this area. Some windows for a little
- 5 relief to the elevations on the side. And this
- 6 bump out would be brick with stucco on the front
- 7 side.
- 8 MR. HEHL: Pardon me for
- 9 interrupting, one second. Don, those are the ones
- 10 that we sent over today. Being that they weren't
- 11 part of the original package perhaps we can mark
- it as -- the floor plans were -- but the colored
- elevations, if we could have those marked as A-1,
- 14 for both sheets would be fine.
- 15 MR. BLASI: And those elevations
- 16 area exactly the elevations that have been sent
- in, just colored. The only thing that's different
- is the rendering on them.
- MR. SAMMET: There were two sheets;
- 20 correct?
- MR. BLASI: Yes. S-04 and S-05.
- MR. SAMMET: S-04, should we mark
- S-04 as Exhibit A-1, and S-04 as Exhibit A-2?
- MR. HEHL: S-05.
- 25 MR. SAMMET: Excuse me, S-05. S-04,

- 1 Exhibit A-1. S-05, Exhibit A-2. We do have those
- 2 and they were placed on the website.
- 4 A-1, Sheet S-04 Colored Front and Rear Elevations;
- 5 and, A-2, Sheet S-05 Colored Right and Left Side
- 6 Elevations, were marked for identification.)
- 7 MR. SAMMET: So if anyone from the
- 8 public would like to view those, they're also on
- 9 the website.
- 10 BY MR. HEHL:
- 11 Q. And Mr. Blasi, I know that there was
- 12 -- I think you answered the questions about the
- ingress, egress. Any architectural items that you
- 14 would like to address from Mr. Sammet's review
- 15 letter? I think you touched on --
- 16 A. I think I hit on the materials.
- 17 Q. And then as part of the -- I know
- 18 one of the submissions showed building signage,
- and as I said at the outset, that because that
- 20 would trigger a variance, we've withdrew the
- 21 request for building signage. So at the present
- time, there's no building signage proposed; is
- 23 that correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And then, again, I think you've

- 1 clearly identified the areas of ingress and egress
- 2 that was requested by the councilman. With that,
- 3 I have no further questions at this time for
- 4 Mr. Blasi.
- 5 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Mr. Hehl.
- 6 Members of the board, let's ask questions of Mr.
- 7 Blasi if you have them. Starting with Michael
- 8 LaPlace.
- 9 MR. LAPLACE: Thank you, Chair. A
- 10 couple of things. Mr. Blasi, thank you for
- 11 addressing my question about the design concept.
- 12 I just sort of want to clarify that. My question
- was: Did you and your design team actually
- seriously consider building the new retail
- 15 section, the new wing, the new construction north
- 16 toward North Avenue instead of to the side in an
- 17 easterly direction where the drive-thru windows
- 18 are?
- MR. BLASI: It's just the issue was
- 20 if you look at the existing building, the existing
- 21 glass, the existing composition of this building
- and how it's laid out, the existing entry and the
- use of glass, if you built out this way, it would
- 24 be taking away part of the existing building.
- MR. LAPLACE: I get that. I just

- 1 wanted to know if you seriously considered it.
- MR. BLASI: Yes. Yes. I
- 3 understand. And I understand, Michael, exactly
- 4 what you want to do. And if it was an older
- 5 building, and it was a tear down maybe it would
- 6 have been different. But the fact that this is --
- 7 MR. LAPLACE: Well, I never
- 8 suggested tearing down the existing building.
- 9 That was not part of my question. My part was
- 10 extending it in one direction instead of the
- 11 other. And I want to follow up on something you
- 12 said, I guess an interpretation of what I was
- getting at where you said there would be two
- 14 parking lots up to North Avenue instead of one
- 15 that will cross the front. I would be interested
- in hearing from you if this building was extended
- 17 up toward the sidewalk in the middle of the lot
- 18 toward North Avenue and there were side parking
- 19 lots with but you know with recessed -- you know,
- they didn't have to come right up to the sidewalk,
- of course, they could have green spaces and
- landscaping to buffer them from view, but the
- 23 building would be up front at the center of the
- 24 site. You don't think that would be preferable to
- 25 a long and extended sort of set back

- 1 strip-shopping-center formation with the front
- 2 parking area? You think that's just a better
- 3 design concept?
- 4 MR. BLASI: Being at this site
- 5 looking at the materials, looking at the way it's
- 6 landscaped, I do see the existing building does
- 7 have pretty decent bushes and hedges in front of
- 8 it. When you're up close to the building, it's
- 9 actually sort of attractive. Being that it's
- 10 setback, I do think for this site and this
- 11 building, it does work better the way it's
- 12 positioned now than being up front.
- MR. LAPLACE: I don't recall from
- 14 the site plan where there's a separated pedestrian
- 15 lane to walk from the sidewalk to the entrance or
- 16 do you have to walk through the drive aisles and
- 17 parking lot?
- MR. BLASI: Well, the thing is that
- there's the curbing and the right-of-way sidewalk,
- then there's a pretty deep area of grass, and then
- 21 you park into a regular two-lane parking, and then
- you walk up to a sidewalk that you can walk along
- 23 the building that is pretty heavily vegetative, so
- 24 it is --
- 25 MR. LAPLACE: What I'm asking is:

- 1 If you're walking to the site if you're not in a
- 2 car and you're on the sidewalk, can you get to the
- 3 building without having walk through the drive
- 4 aisles or the parking area?
- 5 MR. BLASI: No. I'm sorry, I
- 6 misunderstood you. No, you cannot.
- 7 MR. LAPLACE: There's no separated
- 8 pedestrian walk area in the layout?
- 9 MR. BLASI: No.
- 10 MR. LA PLACE: All right. Thank
- 11 you.
- 12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other members of
- the board have questions for Mr. Blasi?
- 14 MAYOR BRINDLE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
- 15 Just to follow up on what Mr. LaPlace was
- 16 suggesting. You know, one of our goals on North
- 17 Avenue in light of the hydroponic farm that will
- 18 be opening up later this year is we are looking to
- make it more bike and pedestrian-friendly, which
- is a big ask I know in light of the heavy traffic
- 21 that it carries. So we are doing -- and there are
- 22 new apartment buildings slated to be just two
- doors down. It would be great if you all could
- consider not only the vegetation, the screening
- 25 Michael talked about earlier, but just a

- 1 pedestrian-inviting environment because we are
- 2 trying to be less car-centric and I think if there
- 3 even pedestrian access points to the front, it
- 4 would further reinforce what is happening along
- 5 the North Avenue corridor. And it would be great.
- 6 Ultimately, I think if it doesn't exist, this
- 7 place will be an outlier.
- 8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Anyone
- 9 else on the board? Just scrolling through the
- 10 gallery. I see none. Let's turn it over to
- 11 members of the public in attendance. Looking for
- 12 virtual hands raised.
- MR. SAMMET: Anyone from the public
- 14 with questions for Mr. Blasi, would you please
- 15 virtually raise your hands so we can allow you to
- speak. Ms. Brescher. Ms. Brescher, if you unmute
- your mic, we'll be able to hear you.
- 18 MS. BRESCHER: This is more than a
- 19 liquor store; isn't it? It's a liquor store, did
- I hear that there're tables for food?
- MR. BLASI: No. I'm sorry. In
- fact, I'll let the client talk about how he's
- going to run the space. I basically showed
- shelving and refrigeration, and there might be an
- area inside with a table that you could pick up

- 1 you know baskets or cheese.
- MS. BRESCHER: Oh, okay.
- MR. BLASI: No, there's no -- I have
- 4 never had discussions about seating. But I'll let
- 5 that question to be answered by the owner.
- MS. BRESCHER: Okay.
- 7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other members of
- 8 the public?
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Any other members of
- 10 the public with questions for Mr. Blasi? I see no
- 11 other hands, Mr. Chairman.
- 12 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Thank
- 13 you. Thank you, Mr. Blasi.
- MR. BLASI: Thank you.
- 15 MR. HEHL: Mr. Chairman, I would now
- 16 like to call upon Nimesh Patel, and I see him
- 17 there on the screen. You have to unmute yourself
- 18 there.
- MR. PATEL: Hi, everyone.
- 20 CHAIRMAN ASH: Good evening,
- 21 Mr. Patel.
- NIMESH PATEL, having been duly
- 23 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 24 BY MR. HEHL:
- 25 Q. Mr. Patel, I know I indicated at the

- 1 beginning, you and your family purchased this
- 2 property?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. If you could give the board first a
- 5 little background on your knowledge and experience
- 6 in operating a facility similar to the House of
- 7 Wine that's proposed here.
- 8 A. I have been in this business almost
- 9 -- this is my thirteenth year. I have a lot of
- 10 experience in wine, liquor, beer business. We do
- 11 want to add into the store a little gourmet food.
- 12 It's not actual -- like, we're not preparing
- anything. It's cheese, grapes, crackers and
- 14 things like that. So that would answer the
- 15 person, the resident that was asked earlier. It's
- not actual -- there's no food. They'll be made or
- there will not be any tables there. Besides that,
- 18 the second question that was asked was about the
- 19 timing of the -- what would be timing of the
- 20 liquor store. It would be nine to nine. Nine in
- 21 the morning to nine in the evening, except
- 22 whatever the town law is on a Sunday. I need to
- find out what is required by the town. Second
- 24 thing is it would -- it would be seven to eight
- 25 employees would be working there. So that was one

- 1 thing that still were discussing about how many
- 2 people would be working there. And then, if any
- 3 other questions, if you guys have, please.
- 4 Q. Let me just touch on a couple of
- 5 items just in anticipation of the board. One of
- 6 the questions, as the board probably knows, we set
- 7 up these little text chats so we can talk about
- 8 these questions. I know you indicated that you
- 9 had no issues with providing the additional
- 10 landscaping that Mr. LaPlace suggested. And a
- 11 great suggestion.
- 12 Are you committed to provide
- 13 additional landscaping in the front of the
- building and obviously working with the township
- or the town engineer and Mr. Sammet with that
- 16 design?
- 17 A. Yes, definitely.
- 18 Q. And I don't want to put you on the
- 19 spot, but the mayor mentioned about the pedestrian
- 20 access. I know you obviously want to have a
- 21 successful business here.
- 22 Are you willing to also provide
- 23 pedestrian access so that -- say somebody is
- 24 walking around, they're not going in and walking
- in and out of the driveways. I assume that that

- 1 can be -- it's a large enough site.
- MR. HEHL: Mayor, are you talking
- 3 about right in the middle in between the two
- 4 driveways, have a little walkway?
- 5 MAYOR BRINDLE: I'll let you all be
- 6 the experts with the determination of that. I
- 7 just also -- you know, just anticipating what we
- 8 believe is going to be happening on this corridor.
- 9 And there are, like I said, there're apartments
- 10 slated, you're going to have people coming from
- 11 the hydroponic vertical farm. I wouldn't be
- surprised if they'll want to pick up a bottle of
- wine and head up there. So there's going to be a
- 14 very, hopefully, pedestrian vibe. We'd like
- 15 people to widen their sidewalks. And the other
- 16 thing I'll mention, and you know I don't know -- I
- 17 know we talked about EV stations and you've
- 18 committed to -- there's a commitment to that. I'm
- 19 not sure how many of the EV stations. But there's
- one thing you should know about this corridor in
- 21 particular. We are really leading into this
- 22 corridor as being a green corridor for Westfield.
- The whole town is really set up to be a very
- 24 premier sustainable town in New Jersey. What's
- 25 happening in this corridor in particular, as I

- 1 mentioned, you've got the region's first
- 2 hydroponic vertical farm that's opening up right
- down the street from you. On the other end, is
- 4 the EV car dealership with Karma. And I've
- 5 already spoke to potential new projects and just
- 6 said to the degree that these particular projects
- 7 can exude everything about sustainability and
- 8 green to lean into that brand, I think these are
- 9 the people that are going to be coming to this
- 10 place. And I think you're going to see lots of
- 11 regional visitors to this farm, so to the degree
- and your building, you might want to over-lean
- into the green and sustainability initiatives and
- 14 pedestrian mobility, all that stuff is part of
- 15 that. But I think even from a brand perspective,
- it would be a great thing I think for you all if
- you also supported what is happening and your
- 18 neighbors around you.
- MR. PATEL: Greg, is there any way
- we can figure it out with the (indiscernible)
- 21 thing or no? I'm really needing to look into the
- design.
- MR. HEHL: Let me perhaps -- yeah,
- let Mr. Blasi touch on the green and
- 25 sustainability from a building standpoint, Mayor.

- 1 And then we can certainly again work on -- I think
- 2 it makes -- particularly with the work in the area
- 3 having a pedestrian-friendly site is important.
- 4 So Greg, do you want to just -- sorry -- are you
- 5 okay with -- I just switched it for a second.
- 6 MR. BLASI: Sure. I think that the
- 7 idea of making a walkway down the center and
- 8 actually using some of the grass area in the
- 9 center to create a place to park bikes and then to
- 10 have a different material for a lane to walk into
- 11 the store would be attractive and look great and
- maybe give this area a place to have a bicyclist
- be able to park their bike safely. As far as the
- 14 building being green, and as an architect who
- 15 cares about sustainability, I like the fact that
- 16 the building is already brick and it's glass, and
- we're adding brick and glass. So it's we're not
- 18 using synthetic material. It's materials that are
- 19 there to last for a very, very long time. So what
- the interior will be like, the client will be
- 21 discussing environmental ways of heating and
- 22 cooling and other things of that nature. But I
- 23 think the building of itself with its vegetation
- 24 with the charging station with the bike racks with
- 25 some more landscaping will be attractive and meet

- 1 those other needs to look similar to the buildings
- 2 surrounding it.
- MR. HEHL: And Don, I guess we have
- 4 enough -- I don't want to -- with regard to the
- 5 parking.
- 6 (Crosstalk.)
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Pedestrian access?
- MR. HEHL: Yeah. The parking.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: I was thinking about
- 10 that and looking at the plan, and my first look,
- 11 was also maybe something down the center sort of
- running perpendicular from the building entry
- 13 straight out to the sidewalk. But then I was
- thinking, people like to walk the shortest
- 15 distance. Right? And if they're walking from the
- 16 hydroponic farm or from spots west, they'll most
- 17 likely cut through the driveways anyway just
- 18 because it's the path of least resistance, so to
- 19 speak. They see the door, they cut right across.
- 20 So maybe there's some space on either corner of
- 21 this site where it hits North Avenue, sort of on a
- diagonal pathway through, and maybe not lose any
- 23 parking spaces. Stripe the paved areas with the
- 24 pedestrian walkway, which I know we have done in
- 25 town before. And you may lose less parking spaces

- 1 even though you have an access, but I think you
- 2 would also provide a shorter or a more direct path
- 3 that people will likely walk to the front door of
- 4 this site if they're walking up or down North
- 5 Avenue.
- MR. HEHL: Actually, Don, it's funny
- 7 because that's what Mr. Watson just said on his
- 8 little text that maybe moving over closer to the
- 9 driveway. And maybe even -- I don't want to spend
- 10 my client's money -- but I like Greg's thought of
- 11 a different type of material there instead of
- 12 striping. Sorry, Nimesh.
- MR. LAPLACE: I'm really so
- 14 appreciative of the mayor highlighting the
- 15 importance of us thinking about access to the site
- 16 other than a motor vehicle. It's a shame that
- we're now, after the fact, trying to squeeze in
- 18 pedestrian and bicycle access. It's not the time
- 19 to be doing it. It should have been part of the
- 20 overall site plan concept from the beginning. I
- 21 kind of like the idea even if -- even if you're
- 22 right. Don is absolutely right, people usually
- like shortcuts and the most direct path, but if
- 24 going down the center means you can really do it
- in a really nice way in terms of design and

- 1 materials. If there's an edge of landscaping
- 2 along the front, maybe that will guide people to
- 3 the central walk. But regardless of where it is,
- I hope in the future when we do site plans, we're
- 5 not trying to think about pedestrians at the
- 6 eleventh hour at the very end and trying to
- 7 squeeze them in. They should be at least as
- 8 important as where cars are parked.
- 9 BY MR. HEHL:
- 10 Q. Again, at this point, I have no
- 11 further direct questions of Mr. Patel. I think he
- discussed his operational and his commitment.
- Mr. Patel, as you said before,
- 14 you're committed to do the charging stations, the
- 15 pedestrian accessibility, and the additional
- 16 landscaping?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And I assume with the inter of the
- 19 premises, you'll work with Mr. Blasi and your
- 20 construction team to make sure you use new high
- 21 efficient, energy-efficient systems for HVAC and
- the like?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. I have no further direct questions
- 25 of Mr. Patel at this time.

- 1 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Let's
- turn it over to members of the public.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Any members of the
- 4 public with questions of Mr. Patel? If you would
- 5 please virtually raise your hand so we can allow
- 6 you to speak. Anyone? There's no one who has
- 7 raised their hand, Mr. Chairman.
- 8 CHAIRMAN ASH: Okay. Thank you.
- 9 MR. HEHL: Mr. Chairman, our final
- 10 witness to cover professional planning associated
- 11 with this application is Mr. James Watson.
- 12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Good evening,
- 13 Mr. Watson.
- MR. WATSON: Good evening. Can you
- 15 hear me okay?
- 16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes, I can. Nice to
- 17 see you.
- MR. WATSON: Same here.
- JAMES WATSON, having been duly
- 20 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Very quickly. Your
- 22 experience and qualifications as a planner.
- MR. WATSON: Sure. James Watson,
- 24 W-A-T-S-O-N, from EKA Associates located at
- 25 328 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. I'm a licensed

- 1 land surveyor and professional planner. I've been
- doing this for over 30 years. I appeared in
- 3 Westfield probably six or seven times a year
- 4 between the two boards. Appointed positions, I've
- 5 been the town planner for the Township of Union
- and the Borough of Carteret. I've also been
- 7 appointed as the planner for the public advocate
- 8 for the Township of Warren.
- 9 CHAIRMAN ASH: Very good. And your
- 10 license as a planner in New Jersey current and up
- 11 to date?
- MR. WATSON: Yes, it is.
- 13 CHAIRMAN ASH: Great.
- 14 BY MR. HEHL:
- 15 Q. Mr. Watson, if you could now please
- 16 provide -- there are very minimal variances
- 17 associated with this application -- but generally
- 18 talk about the justification and actually the
- benefits that now are shown with the suggestions
- 20 made by the board, particularly the mayor and
- Mr. LaPlace.
- 22 A. Sure. As usual, Mr. Sammet did a
- 23 wonderful job with his letter. I'm not going to
- read the whole thing. I'm going to assume
- 25 everyone else has read it. He makes good points

- in everything. And the thing that I take away
- from his letter the most is if this was a new
- 3 application, it would have some variances for
- 4 front-yard parking and side-yard parking. But
- because those were granted on prior applications,
- the variance runs with the land. We don't need
- 7 new proofs. If I were to argue for a new site, I
- 8 would argue under C-2 basically safety. It's
- 9 better to get cars off the street providing more
- 10 than the required parking. It just goes straight
- 11 to safety. I also believe that we would comply
- 12 under matching the existing neighborhood pattern.
- 13 Then you go from the Garwood line over by 4th
- 14 Avenue all the way up to Hillcrest, everything on
- 15 our side of the street has either front-yard
- 16 parking or side-yard parking as the sites
- 17 currently exist. I don't know what's proposed in
- 18 some areas, but from Westfield Lumber all the way
- down to the strip mall next to the dentist office,
- 20 everybody has front and side yard parking at this
- 21 time. It's a good application. Like it was
- stated before, you're repurposing a site that has
- 23 been abandoned for some time. The parking in the
- 24 front yard and side yard is grandfathered, like I
- 25 said, from the 2004 approvals. And we do have

- 1 valid arguments if this was a vacant site we were
- 2 developing in as a new site complete, we would
- 3 have taken the opportunity to move the building
- 4 forward trying to get all the parking in the rea.
- 5 But like we've said before, the building is in
- 6 place and it actually goes to hardship to make us
- 7 rip up stuff that's usable that would just be
- 8 rebuilt behind the building to conform to an
- 9 ordinance when the pattern in the existing
- 10 neighborhood doesn't match that.
- 11 A quick recap that I've been
- 12 listening to tonight. First and foremost, we meet
- all of the bulk requirements of your zoning
- ordinance with the exception of the side and
- 15 parking, which again, has been grandfathered in
- 16 from the prior approval. New impervious coverage
- has storm water management measures attached to
- 18 it. Mr. Quinn didn't get that far into it, but we
- do have an underground storage system for
- 20 additional runoff created by this project. The
- 21 site is sufficiently landscaped in my opinion with
- 22 mature trees and bushes which will all remain. If
- you want, quickly I can show you a picture of the
- front that was taken a month again before we got
- 25 postponed. I'll put share screen now, if I can.

- 1 Can you see the picture?
- MR. SAMMET: No, not yet, Jim.
- MR. WATSON: Let me go back and try
- 4 share screen again. There we go. How about now?
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Yes, sir.
- MR. WATSON: Unlike any other site
- 7 along North Avenue, we have five shade trees along
- 8 our site. Unfortunately, there're no leaves on
- 9 them at this time, but the entire front of all the
- 10 parking areas have low landscaping to shield
- 11 residences and pedestrians from lights. You can
- see the full mature hedge that's along the entire
- 13 site. I can zoom in a little bit, give you a
- 14 little better picture. Before, we were talking
- 15 about an ingress for pedestrians. It would make
- 16 most sense to put it right here along the westerly
- 17 side of the ingress driveway. You come across and
- 18 there's a sidewalk over here in front of the bank.
- 19 This walk could be pavers and you could easily
- 20 access from the sidewalk on North Avenue across or
- 21 parallel to the entrance drive crossing the drive
- 22 aisle right here. And in this area, you could put
- 23 bicycle, you know, you could plant and put bike
- 24 racks and also have a little more paved area so
- 25 people have a little more room to move around

- 1 there; if you want. I'll stop sharing at this
- 2 point. Like I said, the site, I think is
- 3 sufficiently landscaped with mature trees and
- 4 bushes. First and foremost, we are a permitted
- 5 use in this zone. We are way less intense than
- 6 something like a WaWa or Burger King would be or
- 7 even a nursery school or something like that where
- 8 you have intense peaks where lots of people are
- 9 coming and going from the site in a short amount
- 10 of time. This site is going to have traffic, but
- it's going to be spread out over an entire day.
- 12 Normal hours, I think Mr. Patel said from 10 to 10
- 13 -- if I'm incorrect, please correct me -- but
- 14 those are not hours that are out of the ordinary
- for a retail operation like this.
- 16 Again, like I said, we're
- 17 repurposing a vacant site and it's basically at
- 18 the eastern gateway of Westfield. As you come
- into Westfield from Garwood, you're going to see
- this site. I know there're other developments
- 21 going in, this area is being rebuilt. But like I
- said before, we're matching the existing patterns
- with front-yard parking and side-yard parking in
- 24 the area. We do have a little bit of a higher
- 25 volume business. A liquor store is more intense

- 1 than say a small retail like a vitamin shop or
- 2 something like that, but keep in mind, you want to
- 3 direct these business to roads with more traffic.
- 4 This is a state highway that's governed by the
- 5 state. We'll make a Letter of No Interest
- 6 application to the state just to confirm all this.
- 7 But as Mr. Quinn testified to, this use as per the
- 8 ITE numbers is less intense than the bank use
- 9 that's currently on the site. We meet and exceed
- 10 all of your parking requirements for the vehicles
- as well as your loading areas. We're providing
- three loading spaces in the back for the typical
- beer truck or the box truck that brings the kind
- 14 of materials and wares that this store will sell.
- 15 We are, again, providing a make-ready parking
- 16 space. And again, we're less intense than
- something like a WaWa or Burger King or a nursery
- 18 school, which is permitted in this zone.
- We're here strictly for site plan
- 20 approval tonight. I think we've met all of your
- 21 criteria. I think the circulation pattern that is
- 22 proposed is smart, it is wise. With some small
- revisions, we can accommodate the requests that
- 24 the board made tonight. With that, I'll conclude
- 25 my testimony and hope you approve our project.

- 1 It's a good one.
- MR. HEHL: And Mr. Quinn, just one
- 3 -- I know you mentioned on a couple of occasions
- 4 that this site is more than adequately landscaped,
- 5 but obviously, you're aware of the commitment of
- 6 the applicant to provide that additional
- 7 landscaping to the front, and also the site plan
- 8 would be revised to provide that, as you
- 9 mentioned, the pedestrian walkway, and I think
- 10 like you mentioned I think the bike rack, that
- 11 area would be great too.
- MR. QUINN: Yeah. And if you look
- at the picture and if you go on Google Earth and
- look at this site, when everything is in bloom,
- 15 there is a lot of landscaping along North Avenue.
- 16 I can supplement it. We'll take suggestions from
- 17 Mr. Sammet's office. Whatever they want, I don't
- 18 see a problem doing it.
- MR. HEHL: Thank you. No further
- 20 questions again at this time of Mr. Watson.
- 21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Members
- of the board, anyone have questions for
- 23 Mr. Watson? Michael LaPlace.
- MR. LAPLACE: Thank you,
- 25 Mr. Chairman. I do have a question for the

- 1 planner. He stated that this is a state highway,
- 2 and it is indeed a state highway. It's one of the
- 3 earlier ones in New Jersey. But also, local,
- 4 there's also nearby highways like Route 22, and I
- 5 was wondering if he would acknowledge that this a
- 6 different kind of state highway in that it becomes
- 7 a main street through a lot of the towns like
- 8 Cranford and Garwood, and in certainly Westfield
- 9 where it goes into our central business district.
- 10 And right across the street is a residential area.
- 11 So I was just wondering if he could sort of make
- 12 clear that while it's a state highway, it has a
- 13 certain character and a certain history to it. It
- 14 has a different character than some other state
- 15 highways where there's more highway strip
- development.
- 17 MR. WATSON: I agree with you. The
- 18 residential component of North Avenue in this area
- is probably from the turn of the century around
- 20 1900. I think a lot of this was constructed
- 21 before your zoning ordinance even went into place.
- But again, it's a state highway. It is a busy
- 23 road. Everybody knows that. And that's why you
- 24 wisely put your G-2 Zone there because you want
- 25 traffic from other towns coming into town and you

- 1 want it to come in along a main road.
- MR. LAPLACE: Thank you.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Chairman, I have a
- 4 question as well. And if it would be all right,
- 5 I'd like to share my screen just to show a Google
- 6 street view. It would just help me to --
- 7 CHAIRMAN ASH: Very good.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: Jim, what I'm trying to
- 9 do -- there we go.
- 10 MR. WATSON: Just go down the
- 11 street, go west and it will change.
- MR. SAMMET: Right. Right. And it
- gets to be newer photographs too; right?
- MR. WATSON: Right. Just keep
- 15 going.
- MR. SAMMET: But I'm thinking of
- this particular area here, the other corner of the
- 18 site. I'm thinking that some additional
- 19 landscaping that the board suggested may be
- appropriate in this location. And I'm still
- 21 thinking that for those who are walking from the
- 22 east toward the site, I just see them cutting
- 23 straight through here as pedestrians. So whether
- that's some sort of striping or a different
- 25 payment pattern running through this part of the

- 1 paved area cutting through here. I just think
- 2 human nature is going to be someone walking
- 3 westerly in a westerly direction down the sidewalk
- 4 is just going to cut right through here and
- 5 they're not going to walk to the center or the
- 6 other side of the site to get to the pedestrian
- 7 walkway.
- 8 MR. WATSON: I totally agree with
- 9 you and I think both of them would be good.
- 10 MR. SAMMET: That's exactly what I'm
- 11 thinking, Jim.
- MR. WATSON: I agree with you.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: Don, I would just
- 14 say, I don't know you're going -- I think you
- 15 should put maybe a pedestrian or something down
- 16 that grassy area and across. I don't know if
- 17 you're going to want them -- that crazy exit and
- that left and right, I don't know if you're going
- 19 to want them, encouraging them to walk through
- those cars.
- MR. WATSON: We can bring them
- 22 behind. Where most of the cars come, we can bring
- them behind that tree that you see there.
- 24 MAYOR BRINDLE: Right around there
- and then go around.

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1 MR. SAMMET: To get the shortest
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- 2 distance across the parking area, the paved
- 3 portion of the parking area, in which to walk.
- Which, of course, this is showing what exists
- 5 today and we'll have the new drive, Tom. Which I
- 6 think may actually -- well, it might not lessen
- 7 the distance, but it's possible it would lessen
- 8 the paved area in which you'd have to walk across.
- 9 MR. BLASI: What you're showing,
- 10 Don, if you look at where the drive-thru is now,
- 11 that's going to be building with more bushes and
- 12 hedges.
- MR. SAMMET: Exactly. Exactly.
- 14 MR. BLASI: And the drive that's
- 15 coming from the back is rarely going to be used,
- so someone would be able to go along the grass.
- 17 MAYOR BRINDLE: Yeah. Yeah. That
- 18 way.
- MR. SAMMET: This is going to be
- 20 more green scape. But this would be building, and
- 21 the front would be more green. So a direct
- 22 connection that way. They will, of course, have
- 23 to go across what is a driveway still. But it
- 24 won't be maybe as hard or as long as a paved area
- 25 to walk across.

- 1 MR. WATSON: Right. It won't be as
- 2 wide as that exit for the drive-thru. It will
- 3 only be 20 feet wide.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: I guess the point I'm
- 5 trying to make is pedestrian access points from
- 6 both the easterly and westerly corners of the site
- 7 at the North Avenue front end.
- 8 MR. WATSON: I totally agree with
- 9 you.
- 10 MR. HEHL: And it makes sense.
- I just want to get Mr. Patel to
- 12 commit to providing the two pedestrian entrances.
- MR. PATEL: Yes, we can do it.
- MR. HEHL: Great. Thanks. Sorry,
- 15 Ms. Harrison.
- 16 MS. HARRISON: I have a question. I
- 17 guess it's for the planner and the engineer. Why
- is it that there's always parking spaces right by
- 19 the front door? Wouldn't it be nice if at that
- front door entrance those were the two spaces
- 21 maybe that were open and that's where the bikes
- 22 could park? People like to see their bikes close
- 23 to the front door. They don't really want them
- far away. They don't want to lock them. I just
- 25 think that you've got the natural progression

- 1 coming in off of the street, you can cross the
- 2 drive lane, you're coming up the path, and then it
- 3 would be nice if there weren't cars right at that
- 4 front. I don't know if that's a design element or
- 5 safety or maybe it was old bank ideas parking
- 6 because they have the bollards there. But can
- 7 that be looked at to maybe open it or is it
- 8 completely not necessary?
- 9 MR. WATSON: One word I would just
- 10 give you as an answer is handicap accessibility.
- 11 MS. HARRISON: Yeah. But the
- 12 handicap is all the way over to the right. I'm
- 13 not talking about moving those. I'm talking about
- 14 the two directly in front of the door. Isn't the
- door where the bow is, where the building moves.
- 16 MR. WATSON: Let me see if I can get
- my site plan up.
- MS. HARRISON: The handicap is all
- 19 the way over to the right.
- 20 MR. WATSON: Right. And I think
- 21 you're restricted across that front where that
- 22 hoop is. I don't have the ability to give you a
- 23 distance, but just eyeballing it, I think you only
- 24 have four or five feet in front of that.
- 25 MS. HARRISON: I'm talking about

- 1 maybe those two spaces directly in front or two or
- three. Like couldn't you the parking to the left
- 3 of where the handicap spaces are or is that bad
- 4 parking karma? And then, have the front open
- 5 instead and that's where the bike paths and
- 6 everything could be? Because then, your walkway
- 7 paths, bike paths are all connected.
- MR. WATSON: Yeah, we could.
- 9 MS. HARRISON: I'm not a planning
- 10 engineer, so...
- MR. WATSON: My thinking would be
- where the -- see where it says "proposal" on 103,
- on the plan up on the screen?
- MS. HARRISON: Yes.
- 15 MR. WATSON: Right there. Come down
- below that, there's this big area.
- MS. HARRISON: Yes.
- MR. WATSON: My initial thought was
- 19 to just put pavers there, put your bike racks
- there, and that way everybody can get in from the
- 21 sidewalk coming from the west. And anybody that
- comes in along the easterly access crosses the
- 23 drive, the new driveway to exit. They can go
- 24 across the sidewalk and put their bike there.
- 25 That was just a first thought. I don't see them

- 1 pulling parking spaces out because now you're
- 2 ripping up parking areas and we're losing parking.
- 3 I know that we more than conform.
- 4 MS. HARRISON: I was sort of
- 5 thinking if you took these three spaces in the
- front and turned them into almost like a plaza
- 7 entrance. You can park your bikes there. You
- 8 have a nice -- it's also more visibility to the
- 9 front door from the street. And then you could
- 10 just switch your three spaces to the left where it
- 11 says "existing lot line to be removed." The
- 12 handicap wouldn't move. Nothing would move.
- MR. WATSON: You mean put spaces to
- the left of where the handicap parking is?
- 15 MS. HARRISON: Yeah. If you just
- 16 flip them. Like if you took two or three spaces
- out of the front and put them over there. Would
- 18 that work?
- MR. WATSON: Yeah. We may be able
- 20 to do that. Put one to the westerly side right in
- 21 front and use two of those parking spaces to
- create a plaza. Yeah, we could probably do that.
- MS. HARRISON: I just think it might
- 24 be better for business to have a nice little plaza
- 25 at the front entrance with the bike, parking, and

- 1 you could have sidewalks from both sides leading
- 2 to it so that pedestrians were never really
- 3 confused where to go. It's very clear.
- 4 MR. WATSON: It's not a bad idea.
- 5 MS. HARRISON: It was just an idea.
- 6 MR. WATSON: We'll look at it. If
- 7 the grading works for the handicap access, which I
- 8 assume it does because it's in place now, we can
- 9 try to make it work. Yeah. I don't foresee that
- 10 as a big problem.
- MS. HARRISON: And it also pulls --
- even though it's only three cars -- it pulls three
- 13 cars out of the dead smack entrance to the
- 14 building.
- 15 MR. WATSON: Yeah. Even two spaces,
- 16 you're talking about a 20-by-20. So that's still
- 17 a nice size.
- MS. HARRISON: Something. Thank
- 19 you.
- MR. HEHL: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN ASH: Scrolling through the
- 22 gallery. Any other members of the board? All
- right. Let's see if there are any members of the
- 24 public at this time if you have questions for
- 25 Mr. Watson.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Anyone from the public,
- 2 please virtually raise your hand. Ms. Brescher.
- MS. BRESCHER: Hello. So I'm not
- 4 sure who to direct this one to. I'm curious about
- 5 the delivery. Like, when the wine gets dropped
- off, what are the delivery hours and the loading
- 7 hours and that kind of a thing?
- MR. HEHL: That's a great point,
- 9 Ms. Brescher.
- 10 BY MR. HEHL:
- 11 Q. Mr. Patel, we know loading is going
- 12 to take place in the back of the building. If you
- 13 could again confirm the type of vehicles, that the
- loading is from the side, and if you could also
- 15 indicate the general time and frequency of those
- 16 deliveries?
- 17 A. Usually, all the deliveries are
- 18 around 10:00 when we open the store. All the
- delivery vehicle is parked in the back. Usually,
- 20 we time out the deliveries so we don't have too
- 21 many trucks or more delivery vehicles at a time.
- There's a big slot that we bring it in, and at the
- 23 same time, it's hand-delivered. So it's like
- those big tractor-trailers coming in then they're
- 25 taking the delivery that they would block any of

- 1 the driveways. And usually, we take the
- deliveries on Monday and Tuesday. So it's a slow
- 3 time for the store. And usually, week take it
- 4 after the rush hour. So when rush hour is done,
- 5 that's when we take the delivery inside the store.
- 6 Q. And, approximately, how many
- 7 deliveries per week?
- 8 A. Per week, usually -- I mean, it
- 9 depends. If it's a busier time, again, we get
- 10 more maybe Christmas and holiday time. But on an
- 11 average week, it's five to six deliveries.
- 12 Q. For the whole week?
- 13 A. For the whole week, yes.
- 14 CHAIRMAN ASH: Any other questions?
- 15 I don't see any other hands raised.
- MR. SAMMET: No other hands raised,
- 17 Mr. Chairman.
- 18 CHAIRMAN ASH: All right. Thank
- 19 you. Mr. Hehl, any other witness?
- 20 MR. HEHL: We have no further
- 21 witnesses. And if there're no comments from the
- public, I can briefly sum up. I'll leave it to
- you opening to the public. Thank you. And
- certainly, any of our witnesses that have
- 25 testified so far are here if there are further

- 1 questions.
- 2 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. All
- 3 right. At this time, are there any members of the
- 4 public in attendance who have general comments
- 5 about the application or the testimony you heard
- 6 this evening?
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Anyone with comments,
- 8 please virtually raise your hand.
- 9 CHAIRMAN ASH: I see none.
- 10 MR. HEHL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- 11 And if I could briefly sum up again. We
- 12 appreciate the board, the board professionals,
- members of the public with their input this
- 14 evening. Again, as we've indicated, this is a
- 15 great adaptive reuse of this building. Mr. Blasi
- 16 did a great job with taking the synergy of the
- 17 existing building and carrying it onto the
- 18 addition. The site layout is certainly well
- 19 designed and efficient. We truly appreciate the
- 20 comments of the board and the public. I think
- 21 that providing the pedestrian access to the site
- 22 will certainly -- I think Mr. LaPlace's suggestion
- of the additional landscaping, the applicant has
- 24 agreed to. Again, the mayor suggested the
- 25 pedestrian walkway, Mr. Sammet's comment on the

- 1 second walkway, the applicant had agreed to it.
- 2 We'll certainly work on the idea of that courtyard
- 3 -- I guess courtyard, for lack of a better phrase,
- 4 in the front there, and we'll put our team
- 5 together there. Again, it's permitted use in this
- 6 zone. Adaptive reuse of a vacant building. The
- 7 variance, while preexisting, I think is buffered
- 8 by the additional landscaping and the commitment
- 9 of the applicant to construct a first-rate
- 10 facility here. The hours of operation have been
- 11 explained. The ingress, egress has all been
- 12 addressed. Again, we appreciate Mr. Sammet's
- 13 detailed report. And we look forward to this
- 14 project moving forward. The applicant, again, has
- 15 committed to having a high-energy efficient HVAC
- 16 system and other systems throughout the building.
- 17 Mr. Blasi talked about the glass and the brick
- 18 structure. And again, the commitment to provide
- 19 the charging stations. I think for all of these
- 20 reasons, we respectfully request the board grant
- 21 this application. And we look forward to the
- 22 redevelopment of this site. We appreciate your
- 23 time this evening.
- 24 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, Mr. Hehl.
- 25 Members of the board, does anyone have comments as

- 1 to the application, any of the testimony? Thank
- 2 you, Michael.
- 3 MR. LAPLACE: I would like a
- 4 clarification first, and then I have some
- 5 comments. Maybe our counsel can help with this.
- 6 A variance was cited to continue the front-yard
- 7 parking, yet, the planner testified for the
- 8 applicant stated that variances usually run with
- 9 the property, and that's always been my
- 10 understanding. Counsel, could you clarify that?
- 11 MR. TREMBULAK: I think that's
- 12 generally true, Michael. I mean variances would
- run with the land. There is a change in use,
- 14 which the board could -- I mean the applicant has
- 15 requested the variants and I think it's required
- 16 here. Although, again, there's sort of a
- 17 presumption in favor of it since it was previously
- 18 approved by the board. Currently exists and has
- 19 existed since the property was developed with the
- 20 bank. Unless the board feels that there's some
- 21 substantial change as a result of the change in
- use. I mean, it's technically a variance that the
- 23 board needs to approve, but I think again, the
- 24 weight is in favor of the variance given the fact
- 25 that the condition was previously approved before

- 1 this board, albeit for a different use.
- MR. LAPLACE: Thanks, Alan. And I
- 3 just wanted to make some comments. I acknowledge
- 4 that it's a permitted use of the zone, and it's
- 5 always great to see a vacant space in Westfield
- filled with a viable business. We don't want
- 7 vacancies and we don't properties becoming
- 8 deteriorated or sitting empty. So that is good.
- 9 I'm always happy to see investment in town.
- 10 Having said that, I just can't get away from
- 11 feeling this was a real missed opportunity.
- 12 There's a really exciting thing happening,
- particularly on North Avenue, but throughout the
- 14 center of Westfield, and this project, in terms of
- its urban form, is just not in keeping with how
- North Avenue is evolving. So that just
- 17 disappoints me. It's a missed opportunity. I
- 18 wish this front variance had never been given to
- 19 the bank and the building setback with the front
- 20 parking. It would have nice to sort of resolve
- 21 that by having the building expand toward the
- 22 street, but we're not having that. That's a
- 23 shame.
- The other thing I just wanted to
- point out is I'm disappointed that the site plan

- didn't really consider pedestrians and bicyclists
- 2 or anyone other than someone driving there in a
- 3 car until they got to -- it seems like until they
- 4 got to the hearing this evening. And that's just
- 5 not acceptable, particularly for Westfield. But
- it shouldn't be acceptable anywhere. I hope in
- 7 the future, we get more balanced site plans that
- 8 consider all users and how they gain access to a
- 9 site, not just people driving a private
- 10 automobile. Anyway, I just wanted to put some of
- 11 those thoughts on the record. Thank you.
- 12 CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you. Any other
- members of the board?
- 14 MAYOR BRINDLE: Yeah. I'll just
- 15 build a little bit on what Michael just said. And
- 16 I think what you all should know, and it's
- something you probably maybe aren't privy to, is
- 18 how this corridor is evolving and what we expect
- 19 and anticipate to happen. It would behoove you
- 20 all to make sure that you had a building that felt
- 21 it was -- although you're on a state highway as
- 22 you acknowledge -- that you are going to be in a
- very pedestrian and mobile-friendly environment
- 24 because that is where we're going. And you don't
- 25 want to be in the position where your building

- 1 looks very dated in five or so years. So I would
- 2 say any investment you can make upfront so that,
- 3 you know with the setback aside, to make it as
- 4 much seem that it is part of a more urban
- 5 landscape; if you will. As it is closer, I think
- it would behoove you because that is exactly where
- 7 this corridor is going and you don't want to be
- 8 the outlier with the trend. So I just say do it
- 9 now while you're investing the money up front as
- 10 opposed to thinking after five years it looks like
- 11 you're, you know, behind the times. I just want
- 12 to reiterate that because that's absolutely where
- this corridor is going to be in five years.
- 14 CHAIRMAN ASH: I think based on what
- 15 we heard this evening, the applicant is willing to
- 16 make some of those changes and has accepted
- 17 suggestions to create the pedestrian access and
- 18 the other features that were described. I don't
- 19 want to put anyone on the spot, but
- 20 Michael LaPlace, do you feel that you can
- 21 adequately and accurately recap those revisions
- and tweaks that we have described and that the
- applicant committed to in line with the goals and
- objectives that you've described?
- 25 MR. LAPLACE: I'll give it a shot,

- 1 Chair. I think that a condition would be revising
- 2 the site plan to accommodate the separated and
- 3 safe pedestrian access or access routes, route or
- 4 routes, from the front of the site to the
- 5 building. And we can leave some flexibility in
- 6 there, I don't think we have to be specific so
- 7 that it's up to them to design it. But that the
- 8 pedestrian access ways are separate, designed in
- 9 such a way that they're clear and separate from
- 10 the parking areas. And then also I believe that
- 11 the applicant agreed to enhanced landscaping to
- screen the view of the front parking areas from
- 13 the street. I think those were the two that I had
- in mind. Did I miss one?
- 15 MR. TREMBULAK: The EV-ready parking
- space I think should be a condition.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: You could put in name
- 18 of the required development fee.
- MR. LAPLACE: And also, if a bicycle
- 20 rack or bicycling parking can be accommodated as
- 21 well.
- 22 CHAIRMAN ASH: I think that includes
- everything. Anyone else? Well, I think I agree
- that, you know, this bank has been vacant, the
- 25 property has been vacant for a long time now. I

- don't remember the last time that bank was in
- operation. I think it's always a good thing when
- 3 a vacant site and filled in. We're always happy
- 4 to see new investment in Westfield. I think the
- 5 representations that we heard tonight by the
- 6 applicant and with changes to the site that we
- 7 just described, you know, I think this would be a
- 8 welcome addition to our town. And so, I will move
- 9 to approve the application with the relief
- 10 requested with the conditions that Mr. LaPlace
- 11 summarized as agreed to by the applicant.
- 12 MS. FREEDMAN: And I'll second that.
- MR. SAMMET: Seconded by
- 14 Ms. Freedman. I'll take a roll.
- 15 Chairman Ash.
- 16 CHAIRMAN ASH: Yes.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Mayor Brindle.
- 18 MAYOR BRINDLE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Ceberio.
- MR. CEBERIO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Councilman Dardia.
- MR. DARDIA: Yes.
- 23 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Harrison.
- MS. HARRISON: Yes.
- 25 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Goldstein.

- 1 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Jansveld.
- 3 MS. JANSVELD: Yes.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: Mr. LaPlace.
- 5 MR. LAPLACE: No.
- MR. SAMMET: And our first
- 7 alternate, Ms. Carreras.
- 8 MS. CARRERAS: Yes.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: So that's the full
- 10 complement of votes. Ms. Freedman, would you like
- 11 to cast a vote even though we have a full
- 12 complement of voting members.
- MS. FREEDMAN: Sure. Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Thank you. So it's
- approved with conditions.
- MR. HEHL: Thank you very much. We
- appreciate the board's feedback, and Don for your
- 18 report, and look forward to seeing you all soon
- and looking forward to this development.
- 20 MAYOR BRINDLE: I'll just add.
- 21 Mr. Patel, thank you for your investment in
- 22 Westfield. I do live in the neighborhood, as I
- 23 mentioned. I do think it's going to be a home-run
- 24 success. My biggest concern, quite frankly, are
- going to be the pedestrians who are crossing North

- 1 Avenue to get to it. And that is a real
- 2 legitimate concern, and something that we're going
- 3 to have to address; council will have to address
- 4 separately. But I thank you for investing in
- 5 Westfield. I think it's going to be a real home
- for frunty and we all welcome you to the community.
- 7 MR. PATEL: Thank you. Thank you.
- 8 And I'll assure that whatever we said about the
- 9 pedestrian and the bike rack, all the three or
- 10 four things, we'll make sure that we'll cover all
- 11 of them.
- MAYOR BRINDLE: Thank you.
- MR. DARDIA: I would like to also
- echo the mayor's sentiment, particularly around
- 15 thanking Mr. Patel for the commitment to the
- 16 changes, as well as the concerns around pedestrian
- 17 safety. I'm a member of the Public Safety
- 18 Committee. I know we're going to be addressing
- 19 the increased pedestrian activity across North
- 20 Avenue as a result of this business and I think as
- 21 a result of other businesses now opening up along
- the North Avenue corridor. So, again, thank you
- very much? Looking forward to this business. And
- 24 I'm also a resident of this neighborhood living
- 25 just a couple of blocks away.

1	MR. HEHL: Thank you very much,				
2	Councilman, I appreciate it. And to (all your				
3	time dedicated to doing this. Have a great night				
4	CHAIRMAN ASH: That concludes our				
5	agenda for the evening. Would someone like to				
6	make a motion to adjourn?				
7	MAYOR BRINDLE: So moved.				
8	MS. HARRISON: Second.				
9	CHAIRMAN ASH: All those in favor				
10	say aye.				
11	BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.				
12	CHAIRMAN ASH: Thank you, everyone.				
13	MR. SAMMET: Site plan subcommittee,				
14	I'll see you February 7, we'll say 6:30. Good				
15	night everybody.				
16					
17					
18	(The meeting was adjourned at				
19	9:33 p.m.)				
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1 - 48-23		3,000 [1] - 41:25		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	agreeable [1] - 57:15
1.03 - 22.8, 39:17, 60:1 23 - 22.8, 39:18 33 - 22.8, 39:18 33 - 22.8, 39:18 33 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:18 35 - 22.8, 39:11 36 - 24.24 36 - 25.8, 76:1, 76:4 36 -	1 [1] - 48:23	30 [2] - 24:6, 92:2	9/9/2021 [1] - 39:14	Adaptive [1] - 111:6	_
60:1 1.04 3 - 22:8, 39:17, 60:2 33 11 - 24:8 330 12 - 22:8, 39:18 33 11 - 24:8 330 12 - 22:8, 39:18 33 11 - 24:8 330 12 - 22:8, 39:18 35 11 - 22:8 35:10, 24:18, 42:19 37 11 - 24:15 4 11 - 22:14 4 11 - 22:14 4 11 - 22:14 40 11 - 42:4 40 11 - 42:4 40 11 - 42:4 40 11 - 42:1 40 10 - 41:14 39:5, 63:15, 63:20, 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:15 33:16 33	1-of-1 [1] - 39:15	31 [1] - 24:7	90 [2] - 24:17, 41:16	add [16] - 9:11, 10:15,	10:20, 110:24,
1.04 - 22.8 .39:17,	1.03 [4] - 22:8, 39:17,	328 [1] - 91:25	91 [1] - 24:18	29:4, 29:5, 29:16,	111:1, 116:11,
60:2 1.05 - 60:1 10 - 73:1 10 - 73:1 11 - 73:1 11 - 73:1 15 - 3:15 15 - 3:25 15 - 42:18, 42:19 37 - 24:15 4 - 45:7 4 - 45:7 4 - 45:7 4 - 400 - 76:1, 76:5 4 - 30:16 - 3:16 117 - 3:17 117 - 24:9 117 - 3:17 15 - 3:16 15 - 3:16		33 [1] - 24:8	9:33 [1] - 120:19	29:23, 35:10, 42:14,	117:11
1.05 (i) - 60:1 37 (i) - 24:15 A - 1 (ii) - 25:4, 75:13,			<u> </u>	53:20, 73:3, 74:3,	ahead [2] - 38:21,
10			A		
41:13, 51:24, 57:21, 96:12 103 [n] - 105:12 107 [n] - 24:17 108 [n] - 24:22 10.00 [n] - 108:18 11 [n] - 3:11 117 [n] - 24:9 118 [n] - 3:13 15 [n] - 3:14 15 [n] - 3:15 15		37 [1] - 24:15	A 4 m 05.4 75.40		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
96:12 103 (i) - 105:12 107 (i) - 24:17 4 (i) - 007 (i) - 73:1 108 (i) - 24:22 4 (40) (i) - 42:4 4 (40) (i) - 42:21 4 (i) - 3:13 4 (i) - 3:13 4 (i) - 3:13 4 (i) - 3:13 4 (i) - 3:15 5 (i) - 32:20 5 (i)	, ,				
103 (1) - 105:12		4			
107 -		4 45 7		_	
108			· ·	•	
10:00 1- 108:18 4,400 1 42:4 40 1 42:4 40 1 42:4 40 1 42:4 40 1 42:5 2 -1:11, 22:14 425 42 42 42 42 42 42		,		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
11			• • • •		
117 [1] - 24:9				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
1190s				•	
12-by-35 [1] - 42:15					
\$\frac{1}{4\{\etar}\rightarrow{1}}\$ - 3:13					_
15 [r] - 3:14	_	04.0, 00.10			
15-feet [ij - 46:16 17 [ij - 3:15 522 [ij - 32:20 55,000 [ij - 60:17 552-556 [ig - 22:7 33:15 1900 [ij - 99:20 1990 [ij - 99:20 1990 [ij - 99:20 1990 [ij - 99:20 1993 [ij - 37:25 1997 [ij - 38:2 57.7 [ij - 41:16 2,000 [ij - 43:21 2,335 [ij - 44:4 20 [ij - 24:22 2,200 [ij - 43:21 2,200 [ij - 43:21 2,335 [ij - 44:4 20 [ij - 24:23 20 (ij - 27:20, 30:3 10:33 120:14 10:21, 19:16 20-year-old [ij - 71:24 2004 [ij - 93:25 2021 [ij - 151:0, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [ij - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 12:21 16:12		5	ABSENT [1] - 3:8		
17 (1) - 3:15			absolutely [2] - 89:22,		
18-foot [1] - 42:20		522 [1] - 32:20	115:12		
19 [1] - 3:17		55,000 [1] - 60:17	abstain [3] - 30:17,		T
33:15		552-556 [2] - 22:7,	32:4, 32:8	61:16, 63:18, 71:2,	
1990		33:15	abstained [2] - 30:14,	72:10, 76:14, 119:3	
1993 [1] - 37:25 1997 [1] - 38:2 33:16 57.7 [1] - 41:16 10:11, 11:15, 21:15, 30:19, 31:1 accept [1] - 38:14 accept [1] - 48:20 48:23 48:23 48:23 accepted [1] - 115:16 accept [1] - 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accept [1] - 43:15 accept [1] - 43:15 adopt [1] - 33:4 accept [1] - 14:3		560 [3] - 22:7, 24:8,		addressed [1] -	
2 6 2 [3] - 43:6, 43:18, 56:10 2,000 [1] - 43:20 2,200 [1] - 43:21 2,335 [1] - 44:4 2,335 [1] - 24:22 30:19 - 3:7, 3:18, 103:3 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 71:24 2014 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19, 31:1 30:19 - 31:1 30:19 - 41:19 30:19 - 43:15 30:19 - 43:15 30:19 - 43:15 30:19, 31:1 30:19 - 11:10, 19:18 30:19, 31:1 30:19 - 11:10, 19:18 30:19, 31:1 30:19 - 43:15 30:19 - 4		33:16		111:12	
2 6 6 2i] - 43:6, 43:18, 56:10 48:23 50:10, 14:3 20 2, 200 [i] - 43:20 50 [i] - 24:23 50 [i] - 24:23 50:33 3 20-by-20 [i] - 107:16 20-year-old [i] - 71:24 2004 [i] - 93:25 2021 [i] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [i] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 7:00 [i] - 24:16 70 [ii] - 24:17 16:18 13:14 accept [i] - 38:14 accept [i		57.7 [1] - 41:16		0	alternates [1] - 5:2
2 [3] - 43:6, 43:18, 56:10 2,000 [1] - 43:20 2,200 [1] - 43:21 2,335 [1] - 44:4 20 [1] - 24:23 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 2 (5) [3] - 27:20, 30:3, 48:23 3 (6) [3] - 27:20, 30:3, 48:23 48:23 3 (6) [6] - 61:18, 64:6 3 (6) [2] - 61:18, 64:6 40 (6) [2] - 61:18, 64:6 40 (6) [2] - 61:18, 64:6 40 (6) [2] - 61:18, 64:6 40 (6) [2] - 61:18, 64:6 40 (7] - 81:3, 42:21 42:21 42(2) - 84:20, 84:23, 88:7, 15:21 42(2) - 89:18, 89:18, 95:20, 103:5, 105:22, 107:7, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 116:3 42:21 42(2) - 84:20 42:21 42(2) - 84:21 42(2) - 84:21 42(2) - 84:21 42(2) - 84:21 42(3) - 84:20 42:21 42(3) - 84:20 42:21 42(3) - 84:20 42:21 42(3) - 84:20 42:21 42(3) - 84:20 42:21 42(1) - 24:19 42(2) - 84:4 42:21 42(1) - 42:19 4NASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 48:20, 84:23, 88:7, 105:22, 107:7, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 116:3 41:3 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:21 42:18 42:21 42:19 42:21 42:1 42:					
2 [3] - 43:6, 43:18, 56:10 2,000 [1] - 43:20 2,200 [1] - 43:21 2,335 [1] - 44:4 20 [3] - 3:7, 3:18, 103:3 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 12::13 20-by-30 [1] - 24:16 70 [1] - 24:26 70 [2] - 25:5, 25:6 7 [8] - 112 16:12 7 [16:12] - 26:16, 41:8, 41:9, 42:21 acceptable [2] - 114:14:6 42:21 adequately [2] - 98:4, 115:21 adequately [2] - 98:4, 115:21 adjourn [3] - 20:14, 21:10, 120:6 ample [1] - 42:19 ANASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 11:13 amount [1] - 96:9 amounts [1] - 52:6 ample [1] - 42:19 ANASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 11:13 adoquately [2] - 98:4, 115:21 adojourn [3] - 20:14, 21:19, 120:16 adjourned [3] - 21:15, 21:19, 120:18 ADJOURNED [1] - 3:16 adventage [1] - 31:6 adventage [1] - 31:6 adventage [1] - 31:6 adventage [1] - 43:15 adventage [1] - 14:3 amount [1] - 96:9 amounts [1] - 52:6 ample [1] - 42:19 ANASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 11:19,	2	6	• • •	=	amendments [1] -
48:23 48:23 48:23 48:23 48:23 606 [2] - 61:18, 64:6 61 [1] - 24:22 62 [1] - 24:23 630 [3] - 16:12, 16:13, 120:14 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 48:23 48:23 accepted [1] - 115:16 access [7] - 81:3, 84:20, 84:23, 88:7, 89:18, 99:18, 99:18, 99:20, 103:5, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accepted [1] - 115:16 accepted [1] - 115:16 access [17] - 81:3, 115:21 adjourn [3] - 20:14, 21:10, 120:6 adjourned [3] - 21:15, 21:19, 120:18 ADJOURNED [1] - 31:4 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 110:21, 114:8, 31:19 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessed [6 roj 27:20 20:2	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		14:3
2,000 [1] - 43:20 2,200 [1] - 43:21 2,335 [1] - 44:4 20 [3] - 3:7, 3:18, 103:3 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 20 [60 [2] - 61:18, 64:6 61 [1] - 24:22 84:20, 84:23, 88:7, 89:18, 95:20, 103:5, 105:22, 107:7, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [1] - 32:6 ample [1] - 42:19 ANASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [1] - 33:4 advice [1] - 13:20 accommodated [1] - 32:6 ample [1] - 42:19 ANASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [1] - 32:6 advisory [1] - 13:20 advisory [1] - 13:20 accommodated [1] - 32:6 ample [1] - 42:19 ANASTASIA [3] - 2:8, 6:16, 23:8 anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 12:9, 14:22, 16:3, 16:5 AND [3] - 6:16, 22:6, 22:8 advisory [1] - 31:6 advice [1] - 33:4 advice [1] - 33:4 advice [1] - 32:0 advisory [1] - 13:20 accommodated [1] - 32:0 accommod					
2,200 [1] - 43:21 2,335 [1] - 44:4 20 [1] - 24:22 62 [1] - 24:23 63 [3] - 16:12, 16:13, 105:22, 107:7, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 2,200 [1] - 43:21 66 [1] - 24:22 84:20, 84:23, 88:7, 89:18, 99:18, 99:18, 99:20, 103:5, 105:22, 107:7, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 7 [8] - 18:25, 32:21, 32:25, 33:6, 33:10, 33:13, 56:4, 120:14 7 [7] - 24:16 7 [7] - 24			•		
2,335 [1] - 44:4 20 [3] - 3:7, 3:18, 103:3 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 27:20, 30:3 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 20 [1] - 24:23 62 [1] - 24:23 630 [3] - 16:12, 16:13, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [1] - 116:20 21:10, 120:6 adjourned [3] - 21:15, 21:19, 120:18 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 12:9, 14:22, 16:3, 16:5 AND [3] - 6:16, 22:6, 22:8 ANN [3] - 2:13, 6:17, 23:12 Ann [5] - 5:24, 6:12, 14:22, 15:13, 30:4			,		
20 [3] - 3:7, 3:18, 103:3 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 2033 [3] - 16:12, 16:13, 105:22, 107:7, 105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 adopt [1] - 31:6 advantage [1] - 43:15 advertised [1] - 33:4 advice [1] - 14:3 advice [1] - 13:20 2034 [1] - 47:44 2054 [1] - 3:76 [1] - 5:13 21:19, 120:18 ADJOURNED [1] - 3:19, 120:18 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 12:9, 14:22, 16:3, 16:5 AND [3] - 6:16, 22:6, 22:8 ANN [3] - 2:13, 6:17, 23:12 Ann [5] - 5:24, 6:12, 116:20 21:19, 120:18 Adopt [1] - 31:6 advantage [1] - 43:15 advertised [1] - 33:4 advice [1] - 14:3 advice [1] - 13:20 21:19, 120:18 Anastasia [1] - 5:13 Anastasia [5] - 6:12, 12:9, 14:22, 16:3, 16:5 22:8 ANN [3] - 2:13, 6:17, 23:12 Ann [5] - 5:24, 6:12, 116:20					
103:3 20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 2021 [3] - 15:5, 25:6 22:13, 121:13 2031 [105:22, 107:7, 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodate [1] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [1] - 116:20 21:19, 120:18 ADJOURNED [1] - 12:9, 14:22, 16:3, 16:5 AND [3] - 6:16, 22:6, 22:8 ANN [3] - 2:13, 6:17, 23:12 Ann [5] - 5:24, 6:12, 116:20 116:20 21:19, 120:18 Adopt [1] - 31:6 advantage [1] - 43:15 advertised [1] - 33:4 advice [1] - 14:3 advice [1] -	,				
20-by-20 [1] - 107:16 20-year-old [1] - 71:24 2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 7 110:21, 114:8, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [1] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodate [2] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [1] - 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [1] - 116:20 ADJOURNED [1] - 3:19 adopt [1] - 31:6 advantage [1] - 43:15 advertised [1] - 33:4 advisory [1] - 14:3 advisory [1] - 14:3 advisory [1] - 13:20 accommodated [1] - 116:20					
20-dy-2c [i] = 10:10.2 7 115:17, 116:3, 116:8 accessed [i] - 41:19 accessed [i] - 41:19 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 3:19 4ND [i] - 31:6 advantage [i] - 31:6 advantage [i] - 33:4 advantage [i] - 33:4 advantage [i] - 33:4 advice [i] - 14:3 AND [i] - 6:16, 22:6, 22:8 ANN [i] - 2:13, 6:17, 23:12 2022 [i] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 76 [i] - 25:5, 25:6 7:00 [i] - 1:12, 16:12 97:23, 116:2 accommodated [i] - 41:19 advantage [i] - 43:15 advantage [i] - 14:3 advice [i] - 13:20 accommodated [i] - 41:19 advantage [i] - 33:4 advice [i] - 14:3 ad					
2004 [1] - 93:25 2021 [3] - 15:10, 27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 2004 [1] - 93:25 7 [8] - 18:25, 32:21, 32:25, 33:6, 33:10, 33:13, 56:4, 120:14 70 [1] - 24:16 76 [2] - 25:5, 25:6 7:00 [2] - 1:12 16:12 2004 [1] - 41:19 2004 [1] - 31:6 2004 [1] - 31:6 2004 [1] - 31:6 2004 [1] - 31:6 2004 [1] - 31:6 2004 [1] - 31:6 2005 [1] - 41:19 2005 [1] - 41:19 2006 [1] - 41:19 2006 [1] - 41:19 2006 [1] - 41:19 2007 [1] - 31:6 2007 [1	,	7			
2021 [3] - 15:10, 32:25, 33:6, 33:10, 27:20, 30:3 32:25, 33:6, 33:10, 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 33:13, 56:4, 120:14 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 76 [2] - 25:5, 25:6 22:13, 121:13 7:00 [2] - 1:12, 16:12 accessibility [2] - 90:15, 104:10 advantage [1] - 43:15 advantage [1] - 43:15 ANN [3] - 2:13, 6:17, advisory [1] - 14:3 23:12 Ann [5] - 5:24, 6:12, advocate [1] - 92:7 116:20 advisory [1] - 13:20 2021, 19:14 advisory [1] - 13:20 2022, 30:15 advisory [1] - 13:20 2023, 10:25 advisory [1] - 13:20 2024, 30:15 advisory [1] - 13:20 2025, 33:6, 33:10, 33:14 accommodate [1] - 14:3 2025, 30:6, 33:10, 30:4 advisory [1] - 14:3 2026, 30:15 advisory [1] - 14:3 2027, 30:15 advisory [1] - 14:3 2028, 30:10, 22:0, 30:15 2029, 30:15 advisory [1] - 14:3 2029, 30:15 advisory [1] - 14			accessed [1] - 41:19		
27:20, 30:3 2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 32:25, 33:6, 33:10, 33:13, 56:4, 120:14 70 [1] - 24:16 76 [2] - 25:5, 25:6 7:00 [2] - 1:12, 16:12 70 [1] - 1:12, 16:12 70 [1] - 1:12, 16:12 70 [2] - 1:12, 16:12		7 [8] - 18:25, 32:21,	accessibility [2] -	• • •	
2022 [7] - 1:10, 3:18, 10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13		32:25, 33:6, 33:10,	90:15, 104:10	•	
10:21, 19:18, 20:2, 22:13, 121:13 70 [1] - 24:16 97:23, 116:2 advisory [1] - 13:20 Ann [5] - 5:24, 6:12, advocate [1] - 92:7 116:20 116:20 116:20 14:22, 15:13, 30:4	· ·		accommodate [2] -		
22:13, 121:13				advisory [1] - 13:20	
7:00 pp - 1:12 16:12				advocate [1] - 92:7	
= · · · · · = = · · · · · · · · · · · ·	21 [3] - 3:19, 59:25,	7:00 [2] - 1:12, 16:12	116:20		Anne [1] - 12:11

announcement [1] -33.11 ANNOUNCEMENT [1] - 3.18 answer [6] - 15:2, 54:11, 55:20, 68:12, 83:14, 104:10 answered [2] - 76:12, anthony [1] - 5:21 **ANTHONY** [1] - 2:11 **Anthony** [1] - 6:10 anticipate [2] - 41:7, 114:19 anticipating [2] - 52:4, 85:7 anticipation [1] - 84:5 anyhow [1] - 34:4 anyway [2] - 88:17, 114:10 apartment [1] - 80:22 apartments [1] - 85:9 apologize [1] - 51:12 appeal [1] - 32:19 Appeals [1] - 28:3 appeals [1] - 32:19 appear [2] - 35:13, 74:16 appearance [1] -70:14 appeared [1] - 92:2 appended [1] - 42:2 Appliance [1] - 56:12 applicant [23] - 32:23, 36:7, 37:3, 48:2, 48:9. 53:20. 57:13. 57:17, 66:5, 66:14, 69:8, 98:6, 110:23, 111:1, 111:9, 111:14, 112:8, 112:14, 115:15, 115:23, 116:11, 117:6. 117:11 APPLICANT [1] -23:24 Applicant's [1] - 76:3 applicants [1] - 4:18 application [19] -13:3, 13:4, 13:5, 13:24, 33:12, 33:16, 35:20, 52:14, 62:18, 68:25, 91:11, 92:17, 93:3, 93:21, 97:6, 110:5, 111:21, 112:1, 117:9 APPLICATION [2] -24:9, 24:14 Application [1] -30:22 applications [6] -

4:16, 12:18, 14:10, 14:13, 52:11, 93:5 applied [1] - 67:17 appoint [2] - 6:25, 10:3 appointed [6] - 6:17, 10:7, 19:23, 21:1, 92:4. 92:7 **appointing** [1] - 10:21 APPOINTMENT [3] -3:12, 3:14, 3:15 appointment [4] -9:25, 10:2, 11:3, 11:24 appointments [3] -6:10, 19:5, 19:8 appreciate [9] - 9:9, 11:19, 35:17, 110:12, 110:19, 111:12, 111:22, 118:17, 120:2 appreciative [1] -89.14 appropriate [1] -100:20 approval [4] - 35:9, 35:14, 94:16, 97:20 **APPROVAL** [2] - 24:6, 24:7 approvals [1] - 93:25 approve [4] - 30:2, 97:25, 112:23, 117:9 **APPROVE** [1] - 24:9 approved [6] - 13:4, 14:10, 36:11, 112:18, 112:25, 118:15 architect [6] - 42:1, 54:12, 54:15, 59:7, 69:25, 87:14 architectural [1] -76:13 architecture [3] -70:12, 70:20, 74:7 area [61] - 37:22, 39:22, 42:5, 42:10, 42:25, 44:1, 44:3, 44:5, 44:14, 45:13, 46:15, 46:17, 53:6, 55:10, 57:10, 57:18, 57:19, 64:22, 65:18, 71:7, 71:8, 71:9, 71:12, 71:15, 71:22, 72:9, 72:18, 73:13, 73:16, 73:18, 73:21, 73:25, 74:3, 74:13, 74:25, 75:4, 75:16, 79:2, 79:20, 80:4,

80:8, 81:25, 87:2,

87:8, 87:12, 95:22,

95:24, 96:21, 96:24, 98:11, 99:10, 99:18, 100:17, 101:1, 101:16, 102:2, 102:3, 102:8, 102:24, 105:16 areas [14] - 45:15, 46:1. 47:3. 54:20. 72:18, 74:2, 77:1, 88:23, 93:18, 95:10, 97:11, 106:2, 116:10, 116:12 AREZZI [4] - 24:23, 63:22, 63:25, 68:1 arezzi [1] - 66:12 Arezzi [1] - 67:24 Arezzi's [2] - 63:14 argue [2] - 93:7, 93:8 arguments [1] - 94:1 arrows [1] - 51:5 **Ash** [9] - 5:3, 7:7, 7:16, 7:19, 8:21, 26:22, 31:10, 33:25, 117:15 **ASH** [121] - 2:3, 3:9, 5:4, 7:17, 7:24, 8:14, 10:1, 10:6, 10:10, 10:20, 11:7, 11:11, 11:14, 11:23, 12:4, 12:7, 14:16, 15:3, 15:22, 16:6, 16:17, 17:3, 17:9, 17:15, 19:2, 19:4, 19:14, 19:24, 20:1, 20:8, 20:12, 20:18, 20:22, 21:3, 21:6, 21:9, 21:12, 21:14, 23:3, 26:5, 26:10, 26:13, 26:23, 27:19, 29:3, 29:13, 29:22, 30:9, 30:11, 30:13, 30:18, 30:24, 31:4, 31:8, 31:11, 31:23, 32:16, 32:18, 33:1, 33:7, 34:13, 36:1, 37:13, 37:17, 38:11, 38:23, 39:1, 39:4, 39:10, 49:13, 53:14, 58:21, 59:20, 60:19, 61:10, 61:13, 61:19, 62:25, 63:8, 63:12, 63:17, 66:3, 66:11, 67:23, 68:3, 68:9, 69:10, 69:16, 69:19, 70:2, 70:7, 70:11, 70:16, 77:5, 80:12, 81:8, 82:7, 82:12, 82:20, 91:1, 91:8, 91:12, 91:16, 91:21, 92:9, 92:13, 98:21, 100:7,

110:9, 111:24, 114:12, 115:14, 116:22, 117:16, 120:4, 120:9, 120:12 ASHENFELTER [2] -2:19. 23:20 Ashenfeter [1] - 10:24 aside [1] - 115:3 Asima [2] - 17:3, 17:13 **ASIMA** [2] - 2:10, 23:10 asima [1] - 5:17 associated [5] - 35:7, 42:17, 54:5, 91:10, 92:17 **Associates** [1] - 91:24 assume [5] - 57:18, 84:25, 90:18, 92:24, 107.8 assumed [2] - 51:6, 65:17 assuming [1] - 72:10 assumption [1] - 7:21 assure [3] - 45:4, 47:7, 119:8 assures [1] - 45:1 atrocious [1] - 61:23 attached [3] - 47:4. 59:13. 94:17 attendance [4] - 33:8, 60:22, 81:11, 110:4 attendees [1] - 69:11 Attorney [2] - 2:21, 23:22 attorney [2] - 10:22, 23:24 **ATTORNEY** [1] - 3:11 attractive [3] - 79:9, 87:11, 87:25 automobile [1] -114:10 available [1] - 39:2 **AVE** [1] - 24:8 Avenue [42] - 32:20, 33:15, 33:16, 36:8, 36:18, 36:20, 37:4, 39:21, 40:12, 41:19, 41:21, 51:21, 53:9, 53:21, 61:12, 61:18, 61:23, 62:2, 62:11, 64:4, 64:6, 72:13, 72:16, 77:16, 78:14, 78:18, 80:17, 81:5, 88:21, 89:5, 91:25, 93:14, 95:7, 95:20, 98:15, 99:18, 103:7, 113:13, 113:16,

107:21, 109:14,

109:18, 110:2,

119:1, 119:20, 119:22 **AVENUE** [2] - 22:7, 22:7 **average** [1] - 109:11 **aware** [2] - 50:12, 98:5 **awfully** [1] - 55:18 **aye** [9] - 7:14, 9:4, 10:8, 10:9, 11:13, 21:13, 30:12, 120:10, 120:11

В

background [1] - 83:5 backing [1] - 54:23 bad [2] - 105:3, 107:4 balanced [1] - 114:7 band [1] - 74:22 Bank [3] - 33:18, 36:12, 40:10 bank [28] - 41:5, 41:9, 50:2, 52:3, 52:17, 52:22, 53:2, 53:11, 53:12, 62:18, 62:24, 64:9, 64:10, 64:18, 65:12, 65:22, 67:20, 68:15, 68:25, 71:7, 71:9, 95:18, 97:8, 104:5, 112:20, 113:19, 116:24, 117:1 Bank's [1] - 74:7 barely [1] - 62:3 bars [1] - 48:11 based [3] - 50:19, 60:23, 115:14 basement [2] - 71:18, 73:16 baskets [1] - 82:1 **BATTAGLIA** [4] - 2:16, 3:17, 23:15, 49:6 Battaglia [3] - 13:25, 19:22, 49:3 beams [1] - 72:2 bear [1] - 53:9 beautiful [2] - 64:5, 64:10 **becomes** [1] - 99:6 becoming [1] - 113:7 beer [2] - 83:10, 97:13 beginning [3] - 53:19, 83:1, 89:20 **behind** [7] - 45:13, 53:23, 54:22, 94:8, 101:22, 101:23, 115:11 behoove [2] - 114:19, 115:6 belated [1] - 4:6

cannot [4] - 12:22,

cap [2] - 45:1, 47:7

capacity [1] - 13:20

car [4] - 80:2, 81:2,

86:4, 114:3

64:7, 64:21, 80:6

below [2] - 28:7, 105:16 benefit [2] - 33:7, 37.21 benefits [1] - 92:19 best [2] - 14:12, 69:3 better [8] - 59:6, 59:15, 79:2, 79:11, 93:9, 95:14, 106:24, 111:3 between [6] - 42:18, 57:8, 57:21, 58:6, 85:3, 92:4 Beverage [1] - 54:25 beverage [1] - 42:16 beyond [1] - 39:25 biased [1] - 9:18 **bible** [1] **-** 67:9 bicycle [3] - 89:18, 95:23, 116:19 bicycling [1] - 116:20 bicyclist [1] - 87:12 bicyclists [1] - 114:1 big [8] - 18:17, 35:18, 72:3, 80:20, 105:16, 107:10, 108:22, 108:24 big-time [1] - 18:17 bigger [1] - 55:1 biggest [1] - 118:24 bike [11] - 80:19, 87:13, 87:24, 95:23, 98:10, 105:5, 105:7, 105:19, 105:24, 106:25, 119:9 bikes [4] - 87:9, 103:21, 103:22, 106:7 bit [13] - 13:22, 17:19, 40:3, 41:17, 43:4, 43:13, 44:7, 56:5, 65:21, 66:12, 95:13, 96:24, 114:15 blank [2] - 29:23, 29:25 BLASI [20] - 24:16, 70:6, 70:8, 70:9, 70:15, 71:4, 75:15, 75:21, 77:19, 78:2, 79:4, 79:18, 80:5, 80:9, 81:21, 82:3, 82:14, 87:6, 102:9, 102:14 **Blasi** [10] - 70:1, 70:3, 70:11, 70:22, 77:7, 80:13, 86:24, 90:19, 110:15, 111:17 blasi [7] - 70:17, 76:11, 77:4, 77:10, 81:14, 82:10, 82:13

Blasi's [1] - 34:22 63:3, 68:5, 68:6, Block [1] - 39:18 81:16, 108:2, 108:9 block [1] - 108:25 BRESCHER [15] -24:22, 61:7, 61:11, BLOCK [1] - 22:8 blocks [1] - 119:25 61:17, 61:21, 68:8, bloom [1] - 98:14 68:10, 68:18, 68:21, 69:5. 69:9. 81:18. Bloomfield [1] - 36:17 82:2, 82:6, 108:3 **BOARD** [13] - 1:2, 1:6, brick [27] - 71:25, 2:21, 3:11, 7:14, 9:4, 72:1, 72:2, 72:5, 10:9, 11:13, 21:13, 72:8, 72:22, 72:25, 22:3, 23:22, 30:12, 73:2, 73:19, 73:22, 120:11 73:23, 74:2, 74:10, board [65] - 4:9, 6:22, 74:15, 74:19, 74:22, 7:4. 8:4. 8:13. 9:8. 74:25, 75:3, 75:6, 9:13. 9:14. 9:17. 87:16, 87:17, 111:17 9:19, 10:4, 10:8, briefly [2] - 109:22, 10:16, 10:18, 10:22, 110:11 11:9, 11:19, 12:16, **BRINDLE** [28] - 2:5, 13:2, 13:3, 13:23, 5:6, 7:18, 7:22, 8:24, 19:1, 19:18, 33:8, 9:11, 12:5, 12:12, 33:14, 33:22, 33:23, 13:15, 14:6, 23:5, 35:12, 36:11, 37:21, 26:25, 31:13, 51:15, 37:24, 38:12, 39:13, 52:18, 53:7, 56:11, 49:3, 49:14, 58:20, 56:14, 80:14, 85:5, 59:21, 60:20, 69:20, 101:13, 101:24, 70:13, 70:16, 70:25, 102:17, 114:14, 77:6, 80:13, 81:9, 117:18, 118:20, 83:4, 84:5, 84:6, 119:12, 120:7 92:20, 97:24, 98:22, Brindle [5] - 5:5, 100:19, 107:22, 10:16, 26:24, 31:12, 110:12, 110:20, 117:17 111:20, 111:25, bring [8] - 9:22, 17:23, 112:14, 112:18, 40:6, 57:3, 66:2, 112:20, 112:23, 101:21, 101:22, 113:1, 114:13 108:22 **Board** [1] - 26:17 brings [3] - 17:15, board's [1] - 118:17 19:15, 97:13 boards [1] - 92:4 bollards [1] - 104:6 Broad [2] - 1:11, 22:14 brook [2] - 28:13, book [1] - 67:7 Borough [1] - 92:6 28:18 **brutal** [1] - 62:2 bottle [1] - 85:12 buffer [1] - 78:22 bottles [1] - 64:12 **buffered** [1] - 111:7 bottom [3] - 44:19, **build** [2] - 72:15, 45:1, 47:4 114:15 bottom-out [1] - 44:19 building [93] - 34:19, bounded [1] - 39:21 34:24, 36:7, 36:15, bow [1] - 104:15 36:25, 37:3, 38:20, box [1] - 97:13 40:11, 40:16, 40:17, boxwoods [1] - 45:23 41:13, 41:24, 42:3, branches [1] - 36:13 42:5, 43:16, 44:1, brand [3] - 54:5, 86:8, 44:3, 45:18, 45:23, 86:15 46:9, 46:16, 46:18, break [1] - 56:6 53:20, 53:23, 54:1, Breien [1] - 121:4 54:2, 54:5, 54:15, BREIEN [2] - 29:2, 54:22, 59:12, 64:16, 121:12 65:20, 67:13, 67:17, brescher [1] - 68:7

72:14, 72:19, 73:1, 73:4, 73:5, 73:20, 73:24, 74:5, 74:12, 74:14, 74:16, 74:18, 76:18, 76:21, 76:22, 77:14, 77:20, 77:21, 77:24, 78:5, 78:8, 78:16, 78:23, 79:6, 79:8, 79:11, 79:23, 80:3, 84:14, 86:12, 86:25, 87:14, 87:16, 87:23, 88:12, 94:3, 94:5, 94:8, 102:11, 102:20, 104:15, 107:14, 108:12, 110:15, 110:17, 111:6, 111:16, 113:19, 113:21, 114:20, 114:25, 116:5 **Building** [2] - 1:11, 22:13 buildings [3] - 36:21, 80:22, 88:1 **built** [3] - 72:24, 73:7, 77:23 bulk [2] - 35:3, 94:13 **bump** [1] - 75:6 Burger [2] - 96:6, 97:17 **bus** [1] - 51:22 bushes [4] - 79:7, 94:22, 96:4, 102:11 busier [1] - 109:9 business [14] - 8:9, 11:24, 33:14, 66:6, 83:8, 83:10, 84:21, 96:25, 97:3, 99:9, 106:24, 113:6, 119:20, 119:23 **BUSINESS** [1] - 24:8 businesses [1] -119:21 busy [2] - 52:1, 99:22 **but..** [1] - 51:7 **BY** [12] - 2:20, 23:21, 23:24, 37:19, 38:15, 47:24, 70:21, 76:10, 82:24, 90:9, 92:14, 108:10 bypass [2] - 43:1, 43:2 С C-2 [1] - 93:8

calculate [1] - 67:15

calendar [2] - 19:18,

CALL [2] - 3:5, 24:5

20:2

70:24, 71:6, 71:23,

71:24, 72:4, 72:12,

Brescher [11] - 61:6,

61:9, 61:17, 63:1,

car-centric [1] - 81:2 care [2] - 20:6, 46:12 cares [1] - 87:15 Carreras [4] - 5:22, 27:14, 32:10, 118:7 **CARRERAS** [9] - 2:12, 5:23. 23:11. 27:15. 32:11. 59:23. 60:5. 60:9, 118:8 carried [3] - 32:20, 33:9, 33:13 carries [1] - 80:21 carrying [1] - 110:17 cars [11] - 36:24, 64:11, 65:7, 90:8, 93:9, 101:20, 101:22, 104:3, 107:12, 107:13 Carteret [1] - 92:6 carts [2] - 64:13 case [3] - 16:14, 54:6, 121:8 cases [2] - 50:14, 64.12 cast [1] - 118:11 Ceberio [3] - 5:7, 27:1, 31:14 **CEBERIO** [18] - 2:7, 3:13, 5:8, 9:1, 10:5, 11:10, 15:9, 15:17, 16:9, 16:14, 18:8, 21:11, 23:7, 27:2, 31:7, 31:15, 39:3, 117:20 ceberio [1] - 117:19 center [12] - 39:18, 40:11, 53:22, 71:15, 78:23, 79:1, 87:7, 87:9, 88:11, 89:24, 101:5, 113:14 central [2] - 90:3, 99:9 centric [1] - 81:2 century [1] - 99:19 certain [6] - 47:3, 50:19, 52:5, 53:11, 99:13 certainly [9] - 14:14, 37:6, 41:8, 87:1, 99:8, 109:24, 110:18, 110:22, calculation [1] - 50:16 111:2 certify [1] - 121:6 Chair [5] - 9:6, 30:10, 35:24, 77:9, 116:1

CHAIR [2] - 3:9, 3:10 chair [11] - 6:25, 7:1, 7:3, 7:8, 8:13, 8:16, 8:18, 12:5, 19:8, 34:1, 56:10 Chairman [24] - 7:16, 7:19, 8:12, 8:21, 11:5, 26:22, 27:22, 30:22, 34:17, 35:20, 49:16, 53:14, 58:22, 69:15, 69:24, 70:22, 82:11, 82:15, 91:7, 91:9, 98:25, 100:3, 109:17, 110:10 CHAIRMAN [122] - 2:3, 2:4, 5:4, 7:17, 7:24, 8:14, 10:1, 10:6, 10:10, 10:20, 11:7, 11:11, 11:14, 11:23, 12:4, 12:7, 14:16, 15:3, 15:22, 16:6, 16:17, 17:3, 17:9, 17:15, 19:2, 19:4, 19:14, 19:24, 20:1, 20:8, 20:12, 20:18, 20:22, 21:3, 21:6, 21:9, 21:12, 21:14, 23:3, 23:4, 26:5, 26:10, 26:13, 26:23, 27:19, 29:3, 29:13, 29:22, 30:9, 30:11, 30:13, 30:18, 30:24, 31:4, 31:8, 31:11, 31:23, 32:16, 32:18, 33:1, 33:7, 34:13, 36:1, 37:13, 37:17, 38:11, 38:23, 39:1, 39:4, 39:10, 49:13, 53:14, 58:21, 59:20, 60:19, 61:10, 61:13, 61:19, 62:25, 63:8, 63:12, 63:17, 66:3, 66:11, 67:23, 68:3, 68:9, 69:10, 69:16, 69:19, 70:2, 70:7, 70:11, 70:16, 77:5, 80:12, 81:8, 82:7, 82:12, 82:20, 91:1, 91:8, 91:12, 91:16, 91:21, 92:9, 92:13, 98:21. 100:7. 107:21, 109:14, 109:18, 110:2, 110:9, 111:24, 114:12, 115:14, 116:22, 117:16, 120:4, 120:9, 120:12 **chairman** [9] - 7:21, 9:25, 12:2, 19:7, 31:10, 33:3, 51:16,

80:14, 117:15 chance [1] - 27:21 change [5] - 69:3, 100:11, 112:13, 112:21 changed [2] - 53:12, 70:14 changes [3] - 115:16, 117:6, 119:16 changing [2] - 50:14, 72:8 Chapter [1] - 26:14 character [2] - 99:13, 99:14 charge [1] - 64:21 charged [1] - 12:25 charging [4] - 48:3, 87:24, 90:14, 111:19 chat [1] - 39:6 chats [1] - 84:7 check [5] - 29:12, 29:14, 29:18, 60:25, 69:11 checked [1] - 50:21 checkout [2] - 71:22 cheese [2] - 82:1, 83:13 CHIEF [1] - 2:11 Chief [2] - 27:13, 32:14 children [1] - 64:5 choice [1] - 17:4 choose [1] - 4:17 Christmas [1] - 109:10 circling [1] - 71:5 circulation [6] - 40:14, 40:17, 42:12, 42:23, 54:18. 97:21 cited [1] - 112:6 civil [1] - 38:3 clarification [1] -112:4 clarifications [1] -47:19 clarify [5] - 33:9, 65:9, 66:15, 77:12, 112:10 clear [4] - 74:7, 99:12, 107:3, 116:9 clearly [1] - 77:1 clerk [1] - 20:6 client [3] - 34:10, 81:22, 87:20 client's [1] - 89:10 clientele [1] - 64:23 close [3] - 55:19, 79:8, 103:22

closed [1] - 35:15

closer [2] - 89:8,

codes [1] - 56:17

115:5

collectively [1] - 6:6 color[1] - 74:15 COLORED [2] - 25:4, colored [2] - 75:12, 75:17 Colored [2] - 76:4, 76:5 column [1] - 46:1 coming [15] - 41:20, 41:21, 54:21, 61:4, 64:19, 71:10, 85:10, 86:9, 96:9, 99:25, 102:15, 104:1, 104:2, 105:21, 108:24 comma [1] - 28:22 Commencing [2] -1:12, 22:15 comment [4] - 52:8, 57:6, 64:3, 110:25 comments [16] - 30:5, 30:25, 31:5, 48:24, 49:15, 59:21, 60:13, 60:21, 71:2, 109:21, 110:4, 110:7, 110:20, 111:25, 112:5, 113:3 Commerce [3] - 36:12, 40:10, 74:6 commercial [3] -39:23, 39:25, 65:19 Commission [2] -15:5, 15:10 commit [2] - 11:25, 103:12 commitment [8] -18:17, 18:19, 85:18, 90:12, 98:5, 111:8, 111:18, 119:15 committed [6] - 48:2, 84:12, 85:18, 90:14, 111:15, 115:23 committee [7] - 6:24, 7:1, 7:6, 7:25, 14:9, 14:19, 17:12 Committee [2] -19:10, 119:18 committees [2] - 8:1, 21:7 community [2] - 8:6, 119:6 commuted [1] - 51:22 company [2] - 28:4, 28:5 complement [2] -118:10, 118:12 complete [1] - 94:2 completely [1] - 104:8

compliance [3] - 4:6,

12:25, 26:14 comply [1] - 93:11 **component** [1] - 99:18 composition [1] -77:21 computer [1] - 68:11 concept [3] - 77:11, 79:3, 89:20 concern [5] - 28:12, 28:19, 28:20, 118:24, 119:2 concerned [2] - 48:14, concerns [3] - 4:14, 49:9, 119:16 conclude [1] - 97:24 concludes [2] - 20:13, 120:4 concrete [1] - 73:2 condition [5] - 40:20, 43:11, 112:25, 116:1, 116:16 conditions [5] - 38:18, 39:15, 40:1, 117:10, 118:15 conduct [1] - 12:17 coneflowers [1] - 46:3 confidence [2] - 9:20, 11:20 configuration [5] -46:23, 50:19, 62:11, 62:23, 69:1 **confirm** [2] - 97:6, 108:13 conflict [3] - 15:12, 16:15, 20:10 conform [2] - 94:8, 106:3 conformance [3] -50:16, 57:1, 65:10 confused [1] - 107:3 congratulations [2] -10:11, 21:4 Congratulations [3] -7:16, 9:6, 21:2 conjecture [1] - 52:7 connected [1] - 105:7 connection [2] -18:12, 102:22 connects [1] - 44:9 consider [5] - 37:3, 77:14, 80:24, 114:1, 114.8 consideration [1] -53:19 considered [2] - 36:7, 78:1 considering [1] - 7:6

consists [1] - 46:20

consolidated [1] -

60:18 consolidation [1] -60:14 construct [1] - 111:9 constructed [4] -12:21, 42:25, 43:14, 99:20 constructing [2] -43:16, 43:19 construction [2] -77:15, 90:20 consultant [2] - 65:11, 67:4 consulting [1] - 50:22 contemporary [1] -72:4 continue [9] - 8:2, 8:4, 8:17, 20:9, 31:25, 39:10, 74:22, 75:2, 112:6 continued [3] - 11:19, 45:4, 72:22 continues [1] - 45:4 continuing [1] - 72:5 continuity [1] - 14:9 contractor [1] - 28:16 control [1] - 46:20 convert [1] - 34:20 cooling [1] - 87:22 corner [7] - 43:19, 51:18, 61:12, 64:1, 64:7, 88:20, 100:17 corners [1] - 103:6 correct [12] - 20:5, 20:11, 32:22, 49:24, 66:10, 68:22, 68:23, 75:20, 76:23, 76:24, 96:13, 121:9 correction [2] - 27:23, 28:20 correctly [1] - 42:4 corridor [10] - 81:5, 85:8, 85:20, 85:22, 85:25, 114:18, 115:7, 115:13, 119:22 **COUNCIL** [2] - 2:6, 23:6 council [4] - 17:22, 17:24, 18:1, 119:3 councilman [2] -31:16, 77:2 COUNCILMAN [3] -2:6, 6:15, 23:6 Councilman [10] - 5:9, 5:10, 6:8, 27:3, 30:14, 31:2, 58:21, 59:19, 117:21, 120:2 counsel [2] - 34:1, 112:5

Counsel [1] - 112:10 county [3] - 62:20, 67:1, 67:3 couple [10] - 28:1, 40:25, 43:5, 45:11, 60:6, 67:6, 77:10, 84:4, 98:3, 119:25 course [4] - 11:21, 78:21, 102:4, 102:22 coursing [1] - 74:5 court [2] - 71:11, 121:5 courtyard [2] - 111:2, cover [9] - 35:5, 41:15, 42:8, 42:11, 43:20, 44:5, 46:11, 91:10, 119:10 coverage [2] - 41:14, 94:16 crackers [1] - 83:13 Craig [2] - 52:12, 52:16 Cranford [1] - 99:8 crazy [1] - 101:17 create [6] - 71:10, 71:12, 74:16, 87:9, 106:22, 115:17 created [1] - 94:20 creates [1] - 71:18 creating [4] - 46:11, 72:12, 72:15, 72:17 criteria [2] - 35:3, 97:21 cross [3] - 51:24, 78:15, 104:1 crosses [1] - 105:22 crossing [2] - 95:21, 118:25 Crosstalk [1] - 18:3 crosstalk [2] - 55:13, 88:6 **cue** [1] - 50:9 curb [3] - 56:3, 57:21, 57:25 **curbing** [1] - 79:19 curious [3] - 52:1, 58:25, 108:4 current [6] - 14:17, 14:21, 40:20, 41:10, 50:2, 92:10 customer [1] - 64:8 customers [3] - 64:17, 64:24, 65:7 cut [5] - 20:20, 68:11, 88:17, 88:19, 101:4 **cuts** [1] - 62:10 cutting [2] - 100:22, 101:1

D Dardia [11] - 5:9, 5:10, 6:8, 17:21, 20:25, 27:3, 30:14, 31:2, 31:16, 58:21, 117:21 dardia [2] - 3:7, 21:6 **DARDIA** [19] - 2:6, 3:7, 3:13, 5:12, 6:15, 18:5, 18:7, 18:11, 20:16, 20:19, 20:24, 21:5, 21:8, 23:6, 27:4, 58:22, 59:18, 117:22, 119:13 date [2] - 4:17, 92:11 dated [2] - 39:14, 115:1 Dave [1] - 13:25 David [3] - 19:19, 19:22, 28:22 **DAVID** [2] - 2:16, 23:15 David's [1] - 29:8 daylilies [1] - 46:3 days [3] - 34:4, 52:6, 62:1 dead [1] - 107:13 deal [1] - 33:24 dealership [1] - 86:4 deals [1] - 28:17 December [4] - 27:20, 30:3, 30:17, 35:1 decent [1] - 79:7 decisions [1] - 9:20 dedicated [1] - 120:3 deep [1] - 79:20 defer [2] - 12:7, 49:2 defined [1] - 44:14 definitely [1] - 84:17 degree [3] - 44:23, 86:6, 86:11 delivered [2] - 39:13, 108:23 deliveries [8] - 64:13, 64:25, 108:16, 108:17, 108:20, 109:2, 109:7, 109:11 delivery [6] - 108:5, 108:6, 108:19, 108:21, 108:25, 109:5 dentist [1] - 93:19 **DEPARTMENT** [1] -2:11 described [4] -

115:18, 115:22,

Description [2] - 3:4,

description [1] - 66:6

115:24, 117:7

24.4

DESCRIPTION [1] -25:3 design [16] - 12:17, 12:22. 13:2. 13:6. 14:4, 54:16, 70:24, 77:11. 77:13. 79:3. 84:16, 86:22, 89:25, 104:4, 116:7 design-oriented [1] -13.6 designated [2] - 4:10, 26:18 designed [5] - 44:18, 55:7, 74:17, 110:19, 116:8 **DESIGNEE** [2] - 2:5, 23:5 desire [1] - 14:20 detail [3] - 42:2, 44:25, 59:15 detailed [3] - 12:17, 35:18, 111:13 details [2] - 13:3, 72:25 deteriorated [1] -113:8 determination [1] -85:6 developed [2] - 40:20, 112:19 developers [2] -13:11, 13:17 **developing** [1] - 94:2 development [7] -4:17, 38:5, 42:10, 43:22, 99:16, 116:18, 118:19 developments [1] -96:20 diagonal [1] - 88:22 **DIANE** [1] - 24:22 Diane [2] - 61:6, 61:17 died [1] - 68:11 difference [1] - 64:8 different [12] - 13:11, 28:18, 64:23, 75:17, 78:6, 87:10, 89:11, 99:6, 99:14, 100:24, 113:1 difficult [1] - 62:22 direct [10] - 47:23, 51:17, 58:18, 89:2, 89:23, 90:11, 90:24, 97:3, 102:21, 108:4 directed [2] - 44:6, 59:15 direction [3] - 77:17, 78:10, 101:3 directional [2] - 50:11, 62:16

directly [2] - 104:14, 105:1 dirt [1] - 43:13 disappointed [1] -113:25 disappoints [1] -113:17 discharge [2] - 44:13, 55:1 discuss [1] - 47:19 discussed [4] - 48:1, 48:19, 59:7, 90:12 discussing [3] -13:23, 84:1, 87:21 discussions [1] - 82:4 distance [4] - 88:15, 102:2, 102:7, 104:23 district [1] - 99:9 docks [1] - 54:23 **Dom** [1] - 35:17 **DON** [2] - 2:15, 23:14 don [2] - 20:1, 101:13 **Don** [30] - 6:6, 8:7, 8:10, 10:3, 10:7, 10:11, 10:17, 11:25, 12:8, 12:12, 13:15, 16:9, 18:15, 19:19, 19:21, 32:21, 34:24, 39:2, 39:7, 47:20, 55:20. 60:13. 60:25. 68:6. 75:9. 88:3. 89:6, 89:22, 102:10, 118:17 Don's [3] - 47:14, 47:17, 58:11 done [9] - 6:6, 38:4, 43:22, 45:16, 52:10, 53:10, 72:12, 88:24, 109:4 door [9] - 13:12, 88:19, 89:3, 103:19, 103:20, 103:23, 104:14, 104:15, 106:9 doors [3] - 59:11, 74:20, 80:23 DOT [9] - 50:18, 50:23, 50:25, 53:3, 65:10, 65:14, 65:24, 69:2 double [4] - 29:14. 62:15, 68:20 double-check [1] -29.14 double-wide [1] -62:15 **doubling** [2] - 64:14 doubt [1] - 62:18

down [21] - 28:11,

36:20, 47:8, 48:12,

63:6, 63:9, 63:10, 71:18, 78:5, 78:8, 80:23, 86:3, 87:7, 88:11, 89:4, 89:24, 93:19, 100:10, 101:3, 101:15, 105:15 downward [1] - 46:17 downward-throw [1] -46:17 dozens [2] - 38:6 drain [2] - 47:4 drainage [4] - 38:20, 40:21, 48:25, 49:4 drawings [2] - 39:12, 43:9 dress [1] - 45:17 drive [38] - 36:9, 36:20, 40:13, 40:18, 41:20, 42:6, 42:9, 42:21, 43:1, 43:2, 43:12, 43:16, 44:10, 48:8, 50:5, 50:6, 52:2. 55:18. 55:21. 65:1, 67:21, 67:22, 68:17, 68:20, 71:8, 74:21, 77:17, 79:16, 80:3, 95:21, 102:5, 102:10, 102:14, 103:2, 104:2, 105:23 **Drive** [3] - 30:23, 31:19, 33:12 drive-thru [11] - 36:9, 40:18, 42:6, 44:10, 67:21, 67:22, 71:8, 74:21, 77:17, 102:10, 103:2 drive-ups [1] - 65:1 drives [1] - 45:11 driveway [13] - 43:24, 46:18, 58:24, 59:5, 62:10, 62:13, 62:15, 62:23, 69:1, 89:9, 95:17, 102:23, 105:23 driveways [4] - 84:25, 85:4, 88:17, 109:1 driving [2] - 114:2, 114:9 dropped [1] - 108:5 drove [1] - 18:21 dry [7] - 44:6, 44:11, 44:14, 44:18, 44:19, 46:23, 46:24 due [2] - 4:13, 10:16 dull [1] - 16:5 duly [7] - 6:17, 19:22, 21:1, 37:15, 70:9, 82:22, 91:19 dump [1] - 28:17

during [3] - 37:7, 48:1, 66:21 duties [2] - 11:5, 12:13 Dynamic [1] - 67:4 dynamic [1] - 50:22

Ε

ear [2] - 46:5, 46:7 early [2] - 28:8, 29:5 **Earth** [2] - 58:2, 98:13 easier [1] - 50:10 easily [1] - 95:19 East [6] - 1:11, 22:14, 33:16, 39:21, 40:12 EAST [2] - 22:7, 22:7 east [5] - 39:22, 40:16, 43:12, 50:1, 100:22 easterly [7] - 50:7, 55:18, 59:12, 62:14, 77:17, 103:6, 105:22 easterly-most [1] -62:14 eastern [1] - 96:18 echo [1] - 119:14 edge [5] - 42:7, 42:8, 43:11, 72:12, 90:1 educational [1] -37:22 effect [1] - 38:9 efficient [4] - 90:21, 110:19, 111:15 egress [15] - 50:6, 50:11, 62:15, 62:16, 68:17, 68:20, 71:15, 71:19, 71:20, 71:21, 72:9, 76:13, 77:1, 111:11 eight [1] - 83:24 either [5] - 45:11, 58:4, 73:10, 88:20, 93:15 **EKA** [1] - 91:24 electric [1] - 48:2 element [1] - 104:4 elevating [1] - 43:15 elevation [7] - 47:1, 72:7, 72:21, 73:17, 74:23. 74:24 **ELEVATIONS** [2] -25:5, 25:6 elevations [5] - 71:1, 75:5, 75:13, 75:15, 75:16 Elevations [2] - 76:4, 76:6 eleventh [1] - 90:6 eligible [1] - 53:3

eluded [1] - 58:23

emergency [2] -42:21, 59:2 employees [1] - 83:25 empty [1] - 113:8 enclosing [1] - 36:8 enclosure [3] - 47:13, 47:14, 48:20 encouraging [1] -101:19 end [6] - 45:11, 58:4, 59:12, 86:3, 90:6, 103:7 energy [2] - 90:21, 111:15 energy-efficient [1] -90:21 **ENGINEER** [3] - 2:16, 3:16, 23:15 engineer [12] - 13:25, 19:16, 35:22, 49:3, 50:22, 54:1, 66:17, 66:20, 67:1, 84:15, 103:17, 105:10 engineering [3] - 38:3, 54:4, 66:18 **Engineering** [1] - 67:5 engineers [2] - 67:4, 67:15 Engineers [1] - 67:8 England 131 - 30:23. 31:19. 33:12 enhance [1] - 57:19 enhanced [2] - 57:10, 116:11 ensuring [1] - 12:25 entire [4] - 9:13, 95:9, 95:12, 96:11 entrance [16] - 49:21, 49:22, 50:1, 51:6, 54:21, 59:8, 62:7, 71:11, 71:14, 73:25, 79:15, 95:21, 103:20, 106:7, 106:25, 107:13 entrances [2] - 59:1, 103:12 entry [5] - 71:19, 71:22, 73:20, 77:22, 88:12 environment [2] -81:1, 114:23 environmental [1] -87:21 equivalent [3] - 43:25, 44:3, 44:5 Espasa [1] - 28:12 especially [1] - 67:20 **ESQ** [3] - 2:20, 23:21,

23:24

essentially [3] - 40:7,

46:10, 46:19 esteemed [1] - 34:1 EV [4] - 85:17, 85:19, 86:4. 116:15 EV-ready [1] - 116:15 evacuate [1] - 45:2 evacuating [1] - 47:9 evacuation [1] - 45:4 evaluates [1] - 35:13 evening [18] - 11:1, 13:10, 27:14, 32:19, 33:15, 37:8, 37:13, 60:25, 82:20, 83:21, 91:12, 91:14, 110:6, 110:14, 111:23, 114:4, 115:15, 120:5 evening's [1] - 32:23 event [1] - 47:10 evergreens [1] - 45:22 evolving [2] - 113:16, 114:18 exact [1] - 28:25 exactly [7] - 16:13, 75:16, 78:3, 101:10, 102:13, 115:6 examined [4] - 37:16, 70:10, 82:23, 91:20 example [1] - 12:18 exceed [1] - 97:9 **exceeds** [1] - 43:6 except [2] - 5:2, 83:21 exception [2] - 7:25, 94.14 exceptional [1] - 9:16 exciting [1] - 34:17 excuse [2] - 69:21, 75:25 Exhibit [4] - 75:23, 76:1 exhibit [1] - 44:17 exhibits [1] - 34:23 **Exhibits** [1] - 76:3 exist [3] - 62:12, 81:6, 93:17 existed [2] - 40:18, 112:19 existing [51] - 36:6, 38:17, 39:14, 39:15, 40:1, 41:7, 41:11, 41:13, 41:15, 41:24, 42:3, 42:8, 42:10, 43:11, 43:12, 44:1, 44:2, 44:8, 45:18, 46:12, 46:13, 54:9, 59:8. 59:10. 59:25. 62:10. 65:19. 71:6. 71:23. 72:1. 73:2. 73:18, 73:20, 73:24, 74:4, 74:12, 74:13,

74:20, 74:24, 77:20,

77:21, 77:22, 77:24, 78:8, 79:6, 93:12, 94:9, 96:22, 106:11, 110:17 exists [2] - 102:4, 112:18 exit [10] - 43:1, 49:22, 50:1, 51:6, 53:8, 59:3, 59:10, 101:17, 103:2, 105:23 exiting [2] - 48:8, 113:12 **exits** [5] - 58:25, 59:2, 59:3, 62:7, 62:8 expand [2] - 33:17, 113:21 expanding [1] - 65:20 expect [3] - 47:11, 66:5, 114:18 experience [8] - 9:21, 37:22, 38:13, 44:16, 70:18, 83:5, 83:10, 91:22 expert [6] - 52:10, 64:22, 66:18, 66:22, 70:12, 70:20 **expertise** [2] - 37:22, 53:5 **experts** [1] - 85:6 Expiration [1] -121:13 explain [3] - 62:7, 66:23, 68:13 explained [1] - 111:11 explanation [1] -48:22 extended [2] - 78:16, 78:25 extending [2] - 36:7, 78:10 **extension** [1] - 41:23 extent [1] - 29:24 extraordinary [3] -10:22, 11:5, 11:8 exude [1] - 86:7 eyeballing [1] - 104:23 F

facade [2] - 45:23, 72:8 face [1] - 56:3 faces [1] - 75:2 facilities [1] - 40:21 facility [2] - 83:6, 111:10 facing [1] - 74:19 fact [7] - 37:23, 52:13, 78:6, 81:22, 87:15, 89:17, 112:24 factored [1] - 67:13 faint [2] - 51:11, 51:13 fair [1] - 13:16 faith [1] - 9:9 familiar [2] - 51:19, 70:23 family [1] - 83:1 far [6] - 53:5, 65:14, 87:13, 94:18, 103:24, 109:25 farm [5] - 80:17, 85:11, 86:2, 86:11, 88:16 favor [9] - 7:13, 9:3, 10:7, 11:12, 21:12, 30:11, 112:17, 112:24, 120:9 feature [1] - 44:19 features [1] - 115:18 **February** [7] - 18:25, 32:21, 32:25, 33:6, 33:10, 33:13, 120:14 fee [1] - 116:18 feedback [1] - 118:17 feet [14] - 42:1, 42:4, 42:18, 43:5, 43:6, 43:21, 44:4, 56:4, 56:10, 57:21, 60:17, 73:1, 103:3, 104:24 felt [2] - 17:24, 114:20 fence [1] - 47:15 few [1] - 49:17 figure [1] - 86:20 fill [3] - 29:24, 47:6, 58:6 filled [2] - 113:6, 117:3 filling [1] - 10:13 FINAL [1] - 22:6 final [1] - 91:9 fine [6] - 15:19, 15:20, 15:24, 58:7, 68:1, 75:14 FIRE [1] - 2:11 first [18] - 4:12, 4:20, 6:8, 18:24, 20:9, 26:7, 28:10, 35:21, 71:4, 83:4, 86:1, 88:10, 94:12, 96:4, 105:25, 111:9, 112:4, 118:6 FIRST [2] - 2:12, 23:11 first-floor [1] - 71:4 first-rate [1] - 111:9 five [10] - 6:1, 45:9, 64:10, 64:11, 95:7,

104:24, 109:11,

flexibility [1] - 116:5

115:1, 115:10,

115:13

flex [1] - 17:1

flip [3] - 28:2, 28:10, 106:16 floating [1] - 34:10 **flooding** [1] - 45:3 **FLOOR** [1] - 3:9 floor [5] - 7:3, 59:16, 70:25, 71:4, 75:12 flowering [1] - 46:6 folks [1] - 14:11 follow [5] - 63:1, 67:25, 69:20, 78:11, follow-up [2] - 63:1, 67:25 follow-ups [1] - 69:20 follows [4] - 37:16, 70:10, 82:23, 91:20 food [5] - 71:11, 71:12, 81:20, 83:11, 83:16 foot [4] - 42:19, 43:20, 67:11, 67:13 **footprint** [1] - 42:5 **FOR** [1] - 3:18 force [1] - 38:8 foremost [2] - 94:12, 96.4 foresee [1] - 107:9 forget [1] - 48:4 form [1] - 113:15 formally [2] - 40:9, 44:13 format [2] - 4:15, 34.14 formation [1] - 79:1 formed [3] - 6:25, 7:2, 7:6 former [1] - 33:17 formerly [1] - 40:18 **forty** [1] - 34:2 forty-something [1] -34:2 forum [1] - 13:24 forward [17] - 9:10, 11:20, 13:17, 14:13, 28:24, 35:16, 36:8, 54:21, 54:24, 73:25, 94:4, 111:13, 111:14, 111:21, 118:18, 118:19, 119:23 foundation [3] -45:21, 73:12, 73:13 foundations [1] - 73:2 four [5] - 12:3, 12:6, 12:11, 104:24, 119.10 fourth [2] - 15:18, 19.12 fraction [1] - 67:16

frankly [1] - 118:24 FREEDMAN [24] -2:13, 3:7, 3:14, 5:25, 6:17, 8:19, 8:23, 14:23, 15:6, 15:15, 15:19, 16:2, 23:12, 27:17, 27:25, 32:13, 49:16, 49:21, 49:25, 51:4, 51:10, 51:14, 117:12, 118:13 freedman [2] - 117:14, 118:10 Freedman [9] - 5:24, 6:12, 8:22, 12:11, 14:22, 27:16, 27:23, 30:4, 32:12 freestanding [1] -41:3 frequency [1] - 108:15 friendly [3] - 80:19, 87:3, 114:23 **FROM** [1] - 3:9 FRONT [1] - 25:4 front [62] - 35:7, 36:3, 36:12, 36:25, 37:5, 41:12, 46:2, 53:23, 55:12, 56:19, 57:7, 57:9, 58:25, 59:9, 59:14, 72:17, 73:8, 73:17, 73:25, 75:6, 78:15, 78:23, 79:1, 79:7, 79:12, 81:3, 84:13, 89:3, 90:2, 93:4, 93:15, 93:20, 93:24, 94:24, 95:9, 95:18, 96:23, 98:7, 102:21, 103:7, 103:19, 103:20, 103:23, 104:4, 104:14, 104:21, 104:24, 105:1, 105:4, 106:6, 106:9, 106:17, 106:21, 106:25, 111:4, 112:6, 113:18, 113:19, 115:9, 116:4, 116:12 Front [1] - 76:4 front-yard [10] - 35:7, 36:3, 36:12, 37:5, 53:23, 57:7, 93:4, 93:15, 96:23, 112:6 frontage [1] - 40:25 **fulfill** [1] - 16:19 full [7] - 28:21, 38:8, 61:15, 63:18, 95:12, 118:9, 118:11 fully [2] - 40:19, 47:9 function [1] - 45:5 funny [1] - 89:6

future [2] - 90:4, 114:7 G **G-2** [1] - 99:24 gain [1] - 114:8 gallery [2] - 81:10, 107:22 **Garwood** [3] - 93:13, 96:19, 99:8 gateway [1] - 96:18 **GB-2**[1] - 39:20 general [4] - 59:23, 64:3, 108:15, 110:4 generally [2] - 92:17, 112:12 generate [2] - 65:12, generates [2] - 53:1, 67:14 generation [9] - 52:17, 52:25. 66:1. 66:16. 66:21, 67:12, 67:16, 67:18, 67:20 generations [1] -67:10 ghosted [2] - 42:7, 51:8 given [3] - 56:4, 112:24, 113:18 glad [1] - 8:6 glare [1] - 48:14 glass [19] - 71:25, 72:1, 72:2, 72:7, 72:21, 72:22, 72:25, 73:21, 73:22, 74:1, 74:2, 74:25, 77:21, 77:23, 87:16, 87:17, 111:17 goals [2] - 80:16, 115:23 goldstein [1] - 32:5 **GOLDSTEIN** [8] - 2:9, 5:16, 16:25, 19:12, 23:9, 27:8, 32:6, 118:1 Goldstein [3] - 5:15, 27:7, 117:25 Golia [1] - 10:25 GOLIA [2] - 2:19, 23:20 Google [6] - 56:23, 57:2, 58:2, 58:12, 98:13, 100:5 gourmet [1] - 83:11

107:7 graduate [1] - 38:1 grandfathered [2] -93:24, 94:15 grant [1] - 111:20 granted [3] - 35:8, 36:23, 93:5 grapes [1] - 83:13 grass [3] - 79:20, 87:8, 102:16 grassy [1] - 101:16 great [20] - 15:14, 20:12, 33:20, 33:21, 34:25, 47:6, 47:11, 49:10, 80:23, 81:5, 84:11, 86:16, 87:11, 92:13, 98:11, 108:8, 110:15, 110:16, 113:5, 120:3 Great [1] - 103:14 greater [1] - 67:19 green [9] - 45:15, 78:21, 85:22, 86:8, 86:13, 86:24, 87:14, 102:20, 102:21 **Greg** [5] - 34:6, 70:1, 70:5, 86:19, 87:4 GREG [2] - 24:16, 70:9 Greg's [1] - 89:10 ground [4] - 48:10, 48:12. 48:13 ground-mounted [1] -48:13 group [3] - 9:21, 12:6, 13:8 guess [14] - 6:9, 7:3, 8:9, 9:24, 19:9, 37:2, 49:23, 58:19, 68:13, 78:12, 88:3, 103:4, 103:17, 111:3 guide [1] - 90:2 guys [4] - 40:3, 56:22,

Н

67:9, 84:3

Habgood [1] - 12:10 half [3] - 13:9, 72:17, 73:9 half-hour [1] - 13:9 hall [1] - 20:3 hand [15] - 19:20, 35:23, 53:15, 53:17, 61:5, 63:5, 63:8, 68:5, 69:12, 91:5, 91:7, 108:2, 108:23, 110.8 hand-delivered [1] -108:23

102:12

HEHL [48] - 23:23,

governed [1] - 97:4

grab [1] - 43:25

grade [1] - 73:13

grading [5] - 43:4,

43:9, 48:25, 49:5,

handicap [8] - 71:13, 104:10, 104:12, 104:18, 105:3, 106:12, 106:14, 107:7 handled [2] - 48:16, 65:18 hands [7] - 6:13, 61:1, 81:12, 81:15, 82:11, 109:15, 109:16 happy [8] - 4:5, 8:2, 14:23, 16:16, 33:22, 58:10, 113:9, 117:3 hard [3] - 9:15, 62:4, 102:24 hard-pressed [1] -9:15 hardship [2] - 36:24, 94.6 hardy [1] - 46:5 Harrison [8] - 5:13, 6:12, 7:12, 14:22, 27:5, 31:17, 103:15, 117:23 HARRISON [32] - 2:8, 3:7, 3:13, 5:14, 6:16, 7:11, 15:24, 16:11, 17:18, 18:4, 18:19, 23:8, 27:6, 31:18, 31:21, 31:24, 32:3, 103:16, 104:11, 104:18, 104:25, 105:9, 105:14, 105:17, 106:4, 106:15, 106:23, 107:5, 107:11, 107:18, 117:24, 120:8 hashed [1] - 68:24 head [1] - 85:13 header [1] - 73:19 hear [14] - 18:4, 18:5, 18:7. 18:10. 20:17. 61:7. 61:8. 63:15. 63:20. 63:22. 68:8. 81:17, 81:20, 91:15 heard [5] - 41:10, 52:11, 110:5, 115:15, 117:5 hearing [2] - 78:16, 114:4 heating [1] - 87:21 heaviest [1] - 52:6 heavily [1] - 79:23 heavy [2] - 45:13, 80:20 hedge [1] - 95:12 hedges [2] - 79:7,

23:24, 33:20, 34:9, 34:16, 37:6, 37:10, 37:19, 38:15, 47:24, 48:21, 49:10, 54:14, 57:12, 58:17, 59:19, 60:7, 60:12, 66:10, 69:7, 69:24, 70:4, 70:21, 75:8, 75:24, 76:10, 82:15, 82:24, 85:2, 86:23, 88:3, 88:8, 89:6, 90:9, 91:9, 92:14, 98:2, 98:19, 103:10, 103:14, 107:20, 108:8, 108:10, 109:20, 110:10, 118:16, 120:1 Hehl [4] - 33:18, 66:4, 77:5, 109:19 hehl [2] - 34:5, 111:24 height [3] - 43:7, 43:18, 74:4 held [3] - 1:13, 22:16, 36:14 **hello** [2] - 70:6, 108:3 helm [1] - 34:1 help [5] - 14:12, 16:16, 35:18, 100:6, 112:5 helped [1] - 17:22 helpful [2] - 17:19, 17:25 hereby [1] - 121:6 herein [1] - 121:7 Hi [1] - 82:19 **hi** [1] - 61:10 high [7] - 34:3, 43:3, 43:10, 43:24, 46:19, 90:20, 111:15 high-energy [1] -111.15 higher [1] - 96:24 highlighted [2] -39:18, 48:6 highlighting [1] -89:14 highlights [1] - 47:17 highway [8] - 97:4, 99:1, 99:2, 99:6, 99:12, 99:15, 99:22, 114:21 highways [2] - 99:4, 99:15 hill [1] - 43:13 Hillcrest [1] - 93:14 Historic [2] - 15:5, 15:10 historical [1] - 14:25 history [1] - 99:13 hit [1] - 76:16 hits [1] - 88:21

holding [1] - 72:3 holdovers [1] - 15:8 holes [1] - 44:21 holiday [2] - 20:10, 109:10 hollies [1] - 45:25 home [3] - 62:1, 118:23, 119:5 home-run [1] - 118:23 homes [1] - 12:20 honest [3] - 53:24, 54:3, 58:1 honor [2] - 9:8, 11:18 hoop [1] - 104:22 hope [3] - 90:4, 97:25, 114:6 hopefully [1] - 85:14 horsepower [1] - 9:19 hour [9] - 13:9, 53:2, 66:22, 67:11, 67:14, 67:16, 90:6, 109:4 hours [7] - 65:12, 69:5, 96:12, 96:14, 108:6, 108:7, 111:10 House [3] - 18:20, 34:21, 83:6 housing [1] - 28:8 **HPC** [1] - 3:14 human [1] - 101:2 **HVAC** [2] - 90:21, 111:15 hydroponic [4] -80:17, 85:11, 86:2, 88:16

ı

idea [5] - 87:7, 89:21, 107:4, 107:5, 111:2 ideas [1] - 104:5 identical [1] - 12:22 inlet [1] - 44:8 identification [1] input [3] - 13:18, 76:6 13:21, 110:13 identified [3] - 30:3, inside [3] - 64:17, 39:17, 77:1 81:25, 109:5 imageries [1] - 58:13 instead [8] - 36:8, imagine [1] - 57:14 37:4, 53:21, 77:16, immediately [2] -78:10, 78:14, 89:11, 43:12, 45:22 105:5 impervious [7] -Institute [1] - 67:8 41:15, 42:8, 42:11, intense [5] - 96:5, 43:20, 44:5, 46:11, 96:8, 96:25, 97:8, 94:16 97:16 importance [1] - 89:15 intent [1] - 66:7 **important** [3] - 8:5, intentional [1] - 72:23 87:3. 90:8 inter [1] - 90:18 improvement [1] interest [2] - 17:10, 38:19 17:17 improvements [1] -Interest [3] - 51:3,

53:3, 97:5

34:23

IN [4] - 1:4, 3:6, 3:16, interested [4] - 16:8, 22.5 in-person [2] - 33:2, 33:5 inch [2] - 45:1, 47:7 include [2] - 29:6, 66.6 includes [1] - 116:22 including [3] - 35:3, 38:19, 39:14 Inclusionary [1] - 28:8 incorrect [2] - 28:1, 96:13 increase [5] - 64:17. 64:18. 65:4. 65:6. 66:21 increased [2] - 44:6, 119:19 increases [1] - 64:24 increasing [1] - 64:15 indeed [1] - 99:2 indicate [1] - 108:15 indicated [4] - 45:8, 82:25, 84:8, 110:14 indiscernible [1] -86:20 individual [1] - 6:4 **infiltrate** [1] - 47:8 infiltration [4] - 44:23, 44:24, 46:25, 47:2 inflow [1] - 44:12 **information** [2] - 28:1, 48:24 ingress [10] - 40:13, 48:8, 50:5, 62:13, 68:20, 76:13, 77:1, 95:15, 95:17, 111:11 inherited [1] - 37:2 initial [1] - 105:18 initiatives [1] - 86:13

16:18, 17:8, 78:15 interesting [1] - 15:7 interests [2] - 46:6, 46.7 interior [1] - 87:20 interpretation [1] -78:12 interrupting [1] - 75:9 intimately [1] - 51:19 inventory [3] - 65:21, 65:22 invert [3] - 46:25, 47:1 invested [1] - 8:7 investing [2] - 115:9, 119:4 investment [5] -57:14, 113:9, 115:2, 117:4, 118:21 inviting [1] - 81:1 involved [1] - 54:3 island [1] - 45:10 islands [2] - 45:12, 58:15 issue [4] - 53:4, 55:9, 65:13, 77:19 issues [3] - 50:23, 52:15, 84:9 **ITE** [2] - 67:8, 97:8 item [2] - 6:23, 47:25 Item [1] - 48:23 items [4] - 47:21, 65:2, 76:13, 84:5 itself [2] - 47:9, 87:23

joining [1] - 33:19 jump [3] - 16:20, 17:21, 66:4 jumping [1] - 56:23 june [1] - 121:13 jurisdiction [2] -50:13, 67:2 justification [1] -92:18

K

karma [1] - 105:4 Karma [1] - 86:4 keep [3] - 53:13, 97:2, 100:14 keeping [2] - 72:13, 113:15 keeps [1] - 41:18 kept [1] - 65:23 key [1] - 39:19 kind [12] - 29:23, 42:17, 45:3, 51:8, 51:9, 51:12, 52:7, 61:25, 89:21, 97:13, 99:6, 108:7 kinds [1] - 42:16 **King** [2] - 96:6, 97:17 knob [1] - 43:13 knocking [1] - 13:11 knowledge [1] - 83:5 known [1] - 34:2 knows [3] - 18:18, 84:6, 99:23 Kris [1] - 10:14 Kristine [1] - 29:18

J

James [2] - 91:11, 91:23 **JAMES** [2] - 24:18, 91:19 Jansveld [5] - 5:17, 27:9, 31:3, 32:7, 118:2 JANSVELD [11] -2:10, 3:15, 5:18, 16:20, 17:5, 17:14, 19:9, 23:10, 27:10, 30:16, 118:3 January [4] - 1:10, 4:13, 4:20, 22:13 **Jersey** [11] - 1:12, 4:8, 9:17, 22:14, 26:16, 36:14, 38:2, 85:24, 92:10, 99:3, 121:6 **Jim** [5] - 34:8, 34:9, 95:2, 100:8, 101:11 job [2] - 92:23, 110:16 JOHN [1] - 24:23 join [1] - 4:22

LA[6] - 2:4, 5:20, 23:4, 27:12, 32:9, 80:10 lack [1] - 111:3 laid [1] - 77:22 lamb's [2] - 46:5, 46:7 land [4] - 44:15, 92:1, 93:6, 112:13 landscape [1] - 115:5 landscaped [4] - 79:6, 94:21, 96:3, 98:4 landscaping [21] -28:17, 38:20, 40:23, 45:7, 45:16, 45:19, 57:8, 57:19, 78:22, 84:10, 84:13, 87:25,

90:1, 90:16, 95:10,

98:7, 98:15, 100:19,

110:23, 111:8,

lane [10] - 41:20,

116:11

41:21, 55:21, 55:25, 62:16, 62:17, 79:15, 79:21, 87:10, 104:2 lanes [1] - 67:21 **LAPLACE** [45] - 3:7, 3:10. 3:13. 5:11. 6:16, 7:5, 7:20, 9:7, 10:15, 15:20, 16:4, 18:6, 18:9, 18:14, 30:6, 35:24, 36:2, 37:9, 53:16, 54:10, 54:17, 55:4, 55:11, 55:17, 55:25, 56:16, 56:25, 57:5, 57:23, 58:7, 58:16, 77:9, 77:25, 78:7, 79:13, 79:25, 80:7, 89:13, 98:24, 100:2, 112:3, 113:2, 115:25, 116:19, 118:5 laPlace [1] - 37:10 **LaPlace** [22] - 5:19, 6:10, 7:4, 8:17, 9:6, 12:10, 14:22, 27:11, 30:7, 32:8, 35:22, 57:12, 58:23, 72:11, 77:8, 80:15, 84:10, 92:21, 98:23, 115:20, 117:10, 118:4 LaPlace's [1] - 110:22 large [4] - 72:3, 72:4, 74:25, 85:1 largely [2] - 10:16, 42.13 last [13] - 12:11, 18:17, 28:2, 28:10, 28:23, 29:8, 33:22, 40:9, 56:19, 57:5, 70:14, 87:19, 117:1 **Lastly** [1] - 28:21 law [1] - 83:22 layered [1] - 45:22 layout [5] - 50:21, 54:15, 70:24, 80:8, 110:18 lead [2] - 4:20, 59:5 Leader [1] - 26:20 leading [2] - 85:21, 107:1 leads [1] - 71:18 lean [2] - 86:8, 86:12 least [3] - 51:2, 88:18, 90:7 leave [4] - 52:20, 73:3, 109:22, 116:5 leaves [2] - 16:7, 95:8 **LED** [1] - 41:5 Ledger [1] - 26:19 LEDs [1] - 46:17

Left [1] - 76:5 left [13] - 43:14, 50:8, 50:11, 53:8, 62:1, 62:17, 62:21, 68:14, 73:14, 101:18, 105:2, 106:10, 106:14 **LEFT** [1] - 25:6 legacy [2] - 14:18, 15:7 legal [2] - 4:16, 10:24 legitimate [1] - 119:2 less [7] - 52:17, 53:1, 81:2, 88:25, 96:5, 97:8, 97:16 lessen [2] - 102:6, 102:7 letter [8] - 47:14, 47:18, 47:22, 49:8, 29:4 71:3, 76:15, 92:23, 93.2 Letter [3] - 51:3, 53:3, 97:5 level [1] - 64:24 liaison [4] - 14:25, 15:5, 15:9, 17:11 **LIAISON** [3] - 2:6, 3:15, 23:6 license [2] - 38:1, 92.10 licensed [1] - 91:25 licenses [1] - 38:8 licensing [1] - 70:14 licensure [1] - 70:18 light [10] - 40:2, 41:6, 46:10, 46:12, 46:17, 48:10, 54:13, 75:4, 80:17, 80:20 lighting [6] - 38:20, 40:22, 41:2, 41:7, 45:7, 48:20 lights [8] - 41:3, 41:5, 46:8, 46:13, 46:15, 48:10, 48:13, 95:11 likely [3] - 29:10, 88:17, 89:3 limitations [1] - 50:17 limited [1] - 50:20 Linda [2] - 12:10, 17:19 Line [2] - 56:12, 75:2 line [14] - 18:24, 28:11, 39:24, 43:6, 55:19, 55:22, 56:3, 56:22, 57:9, 57:22, 72:13, 93:13, 106:11, 115:23

lined [1] - 18:16

lines [1] - 28:7

link [1] - 39:6

liquor [18] - 33:18, 34:21, 52:8, 52:16, 52:22, 52:24, 62:8, 64:9, 65:1, 65:11, 66:8, 67:19, 69:6, 81:19, 83:10, 83:20, 96:25 list [1] - 69:11 listen [2] - 29:17, 68:12 listening [1] - 94:12 lit [1] - 41:6 live [9] - 4:5, 33:5, 51:17, 57:7, 61:11, 61:25, 64:3, 64:6, 118:22 living [1] - 119:24 **LLC** [3] - 28:4, 29:3, **LLP** [3] - 2:20, 11:1, 23:21 loading [11] - 35:4, 42:14, 42:15, 42:25, 54:20, 54:23, 97:11, 97:12, 108:6, 108:11, 108:14 local [1] - 99:3 located [11] - 39:19, 40:11, 40:15, 40:24, 43:3, 43:5, 43:18, 46:14, 59:12, 91:24 location [1] - 100:20 lock [1] - 103:24 look [16] - 9:10, 11:20, 28:6, 28:15, 77:20, 86:21, 87:11, 88:1, 88:10, 98:12, 98:14, 102:10, 107:6, 111:13, 111:21, 118.18 looked [5] - 41:2, 58:8, 58:11, 58:12, 104:7 looking [13] - 13:18, 34:20, 39:12, 40:2, 40:8, 73:9, 79:5, 80:18, 81:11, 88:10, 118:19, 119:23 Looks [1] - 17:12 looks [5] - 49:22, 63:2, 72:23, 115:1, 115:10 loop [1] - 40:14 looping [1] - 54:22 lose [2] - 88:22, 88:25 losing [1] - 106:2 **LOTS** [1] - 22:8 **love** [1] - 9:14 loves [1] - 21:6 low [1] - 95:10

lucky [1] - 10:18

Lumber [1] - 93:18 M ma'am [2] - 49:20, 62:9 main [5] - 55:10, 71:14, 71:19, 99:7, 100:1 maintain [2] - 48:15, 50:12 maintained [4] -42:11, 42:24, 43:10, 59.8 maintaining [2] -59:11, 62:24 MAJOR [1] - 22:6 make-ready [1] -97:15 mall [1] - 93:19 management [1] -94:17 maneuver [1] - 55:9 manhole [1] - 44:12 map [2] - 39:19, 56:22 Maps [2] - 56:23, 57:3 Maria [3] - 29:1, 121:4 **MARIA** [1] - 121:12 mark [2] - 75:11, 75:22 marked [2] - 75:13, 76:6 match [4] - 73:22. 74:11. 74:13. 94:10 matches [1] - 74:15 matching [2] - 93:12, 96:22 material [4] - 74:9, 87:10, 87:18, 89:11 materials [6] - 72:22, 76:16, 79:5, 87:18, 90:1, 97:14 matrix [1] - 44:22 Matt [4] - 10:6, 11:11, 15:16, 16:18 matter [3] - 52:13, 61:24, 121:8 Matthew [1] - 5:7 **MATTHEW** [2] - 2:7, 23.7 mature [4] - 45:10, 94:22, 95:12, 96:3 maximum [1] - 43:18 Mayor [5] - 5:5, 10:16, 26:24, 31:12, 86:25 MAYOR [30] - 2:5, 5:6, 7:18, 7:22, 8:24, 9:11, 12:5, 12:12, 13:15, 14:6, 23:5,

26:25, 31:13, 51:15,

52:18, 53:7, 56:11,

56:14, 80:14, 85:5, 101:13, 101:24, 102:17, 114:14, 117:18, 118:20, 119:12, 120:7 mayor [7] - 56:21, 84:19. 85:2. 89:14. 92:20. 110:24. 117:17 mayor's [1] - 119:14 McAloon's [1] - 10:14 MCDONOUGH [2] -2:19, 23:20 McDonough [1] -10:25 mean [8] - 14:7, 49:19, 52:7, 106:13, 109:8, 112:12, 112:14, 112:22 means [9] - 62:16, 66:24, 67:10, 71:14, 71:19, 71:20, 71:21, 89:24 meant [2] - 28:9, 46:10 measurements [1] -41:6 measures [1] - 94:17 meet [10] - 13:12, 15:13, 15:16, 16:10, 19:10, 35:2, 55:22, 87:25, 94:12, 97:9 meeting [20] - 4:8, 4:12, 4:13, 4:14, 6:21, 13:9, 13:13, 18:24, 19:1, 21:10, 21:16, 21:19, 26:16, 27:20, 32:24, 32:25, 33:2, 33:10, 33:22, 120:18 **MEETING** [3] - 1:5, 3:18, 3:19 Meeting [2] - 1:13, 22:16 meetings [4] - 16:10, 17:20, 17:25, 20:2 **Meetings** [3] - 4:7, 26:8, 26:15 meets [1] - 13:8 member [1] - 119:17 MEMBER [8] - 2:7, 2:8, 2:9, 2:10, 23:7, 23:8, 23:9, 23:10 **MEMBERS** [8] - 3:6, 7:14, 9:4, 10:9, 11:13, 21:13, 30:12, 120:11 members [33] - 4:9, 6:1, 12:1, 12:3, 12:11, 13:23, 14:18,

14:21, 18:22, 26:17, 33:23, 49:14, 59:20, 60:20, 60:21, 68:4, 77:6, 80:12, 81:11, 82:7, 82:9, 91:2, 91:3, 98:21, 107:22, 107:23, 110:3, 110:13, 111:25, 114:13, 118:12 memorandum [2] -34:25, 35:1 memory [1] - 42:3 memos [1] - 35:18 mention [2] - 47:12, 85:16 mentioned [7] - 13:10, 84:19, 86:1, 98:3, 98:9, 98:10, 118:23 met [1] - 97:20 mic [1] - 81:17 MICHAEL [7] - 2:3, 2:4, 2:6, 6:16, 23:3, 23:4. 23:6 michael [1] - 98:23 Michael [20] - 5:3, 5:19, 6:10, 7:4, 7:7, 7:23, 8:17, 8:25, 12:10, 14:22, 15:20, 35:22, 56:11, 77:7, 78:3, 80:25, 112:2, 112:12, 114:15, 115:20 middle [3] - 52:21, 78:17, 85:3 might [5] - 9:17, 81:24, 86:12, 102:6, 106:23 Mike [1] - 20:16 mind [3] - 61:13, 97:2, 116:14 minimal [1] - 92:16 minor [2] - 12:19, 43:21 MINUTES [1] - 24:6 minutes [6] - 27:20, 27:21, 29:5, 29:14, 30:2, 51:24 miss [1] - 116:14 Miss [1] - 8:22 missed [4] - 61:21, 68:11, 113:11, 113:17 missing [1] - 28:6 misunderstood [1] -80.6 mobile [1] - 114:23 mobile-friendly [1] -114:23 mobility [1] - 86:14 Monday [3] - 15:18,

20:9, 109:2 money [2] - 89:10, 115:9 monolithic [1] - 72:24 Montclair [1] - 36:17 month [4] - 15:18, 19:13, 20:9, 94:24 morning [1] - 83:21 most [9] - 44:16, 62:1, 62:12, 62:14, 88:16, 89:23, 93:2, 95:16, 101:22 mostly [1] - 45:23 **MOTION** [1] - 24:9 motion [5] - 8:21, 20:14, 30:2, 30:8, 120:6 motor [1] - 89:16 mounted [2] - 46:16, 48:13 move [13] - 10:3, 11:2, 14:13, 15:1, 31:5, 35:16, 38:18, 62:22, 94:3, 95:25, 106:12, 117:8 moved [2] - 30:9, 120:7 movement [1] - 50:10 moves [1] - 104:15 moving [4] - 9:24, 89:8, 104:13, 111:14 MR [339] - 4:5, 4:25, 5:5, 5:7, 5:8, 5:9, 5:11, 5:12, 5:13, 5:15, 5:16, 5:17, 5:19, 5:20, 5:21, 5:24, 6:1, 6:5, 6:7, 7:5, 7:9, 7:12, 7:15, 7:20, 8:11, 8:21, 9:1, 9:3, 9:5, 9:7, 9:24, 10:5, 10:13, 10:15, 10:19, 11:4, 11:10, 11:17, 12:2, 12:9, 12:15, 13:22, 14:8, 15:9, 15:17, 15:20, 16:4, 16:9, 16:13, 16:14, 16:25, 18:5, 18:6, 18:7, 18:8, 18:9, 18:11, 18:14, 18:22, 19:3, 19:6, 19:12, 19:25, 20:5, 20:11, 20:16, 20:19, 20:24, 21:2, 21:5, 21:8, 21:11, 26:7, 26:11, 26:21, 26:24, 27:1, 27:2, 27:3, 27:4, 27:5, 27:7, 27:8, 27:9, 27:11,

27:12, 27:13, 27:16,

27:18, 27:22, 29:10,

29:16, 30:6, 30:7, 30:10, 30:21, 31:1, 31:7, 31:10, 31:12, 31:14, 31:15, 31:16, 31:20, 32:1, 32:5, 32:6, 32:7, 32:9, 32:10, 32:12, 32:14, 32:17, 32:22, 33:3, 33:20, 34:5, 34:9, 34:12, 34:16, 35:24, 36:2, 37:6, 37:9, 37:10, 37:19, 38:15, 38:25, 39:3, 39:8, 39:11, 40:5, 40:6, 47:24, 48:21, 49:1, 49:6, 49:10, 49:19, 49:24, 50:4, 51:8, 51:11, 52:9, 52:19, 53:10. 53:16. 53:24. 54:10, 54:12, 54:14, 54:17, 54:25, 55:4, 55:6, 55:11, 55:14, 55:17, 55:23, 55:25, 56:2, 56:9, 56:13, 56:16, 56:20, 56:25, 57:2, 57:5, 57:12, 57:20, 57:23, 58:1, 58:7, 58:10, 58:16, 58:17, 58:22, 59:6, 59:18, 59:19, 60:3, 60:7, 60:11, 60:12, 60:15, 61:3, 61:8, 62:9, 63:2, 63:10, 63:13, 63:19, 63:22, 63:23, 63:25, 65:8, 66:10, 66:25, 68:1, 68:16, 68:19, 68:23, 69:7, 69:14, 69:18, 69:23, 69:24, 70:4, 70:6, 70:8, 70:15, 70:21, 71:4, 75:8, 75:15, 75:19, 75:21, 75:22, 75:24, 75:25, 76:7, 76:10, 77:9, 77:19, 77:25, 78:2, 78:7, 79:4, 79:13, 79:18, 79:25, 80:5, 80:7, 80:9, 80:10, 81:13, 81:21, 82:3, 82:9, 82:14, 82:15, 82:19, 82:24, 85:2, 86:19, 86:23, 87:6, 88:3, 88:7, 88:8, 88:9, 89:6, 89:13, 90:9, 91:3, 91:9, 91:14, 91:18, 91:23, 92:12, 92:14, 95:2, 95:3, 95:5, 95:6, 98:2, 98:12, 98:19, 98:24, 99:17, 100:2, 100:3, 100:8,

101:12, 101:21, 102:1, 102:9, 102:13, 102:14, 102:19, 103:1, 103:4, 103:8, 103:10, 103:13, 103:14, 104:9, 104:16, 104:20, 105:8, 105:11, 105:15, 105:18, 106:13, 106:19, 107:4, 107:6, 107:15, 107:20, 108:1, 108:8, 108:10, 109:16, 109:20, 110:7. 110:10, 112:3, 112:11, 113:2, 115:25, 116:15, 116:17, 116:19, 117:13, 117:17, 117:19, 117:20, 117:21, 117:22, 117:23, 117:25, 118:1, 118:2, 118:4, 118:5, 118:6, 118:9, 118:14, 118:16, 119:7, 119:13, 120:1, 120:13 MS [76] - 5:14, 5:18, 5:23, 5:25, 7:11, 8:19, 8:23, 14:23, 15:6, 15:15, 15:19, 15:24, 16:2, 16:11, 16:20, 17:5, 17:14, 17:18, 18:4, 18:19, 19:9, 27:6, 27:10, 27:15, 27:17, 27:25, 29:2, 30:16, 31:18, 31:21, 31:24, 32:3, 32:11, 32:13, 49:16, 49:21, 49:25, 51:4, 51:10, 51:14, 59:23, 60:5, 60:9, 61:7, 61:11, 61:17, 61:21, 68:8, 68:10, 68:18, 68:21, 69:5, 69:9, 81:18, 82:2, 82:6, 103:16, 104:11, 104:18, 104:25, 105:9, 105:14, 105:17, 106:4, 106:15, 106:23, 107:5, 107:11, 107:18, 108:3, 117:12, 117:24, 118:3, 118:8, 118:13, 120:8

100:10, 100:12,

100:14, 100:16,

101:8, 101:10,

multiply [1] - 67:12 munch [1] - 66:1 Municipal [2] - 1:11, 22:13 muscle [1] - 17:1 muted [3] - 5:11, 63:20, 70:4

N

name [6] - 28:5, 28:23, 29:20, 61:15, 63:18, 116:17 names [2] - 28:3 natural [2] - 40:23, 103:25 nature [2] - 87:22, 101:2 nearby [1] - 99:4 necessarily [1] - 50:8 necessary [1] - 104:8 necessity [1] - 13:13 need [15] - 6:2, 6:3, 15:11, 16:21, 19:4, 26:8, 28:5, 28:22, 31:2, 32:7, 44:3, 48:22, 55:4, 83:22, 93:6 needed [1] - 14:24 needing [1] - 86:21 needs [3] - 13:6, 88:1, 112:23 neighborhood [4] -93:12, 94:10, 118:22, 119:24 neighbors [1] - 86:18 never [6] - 36:23, 43:6, 78:7, 82:4, 107:2, 113:18 **NEW** [2] - 3:6, 24:8 new [28] - 4:17, 4:18, 33:14, 33:22, 54:6, 55:18, 55:21, 62:8, 71:8, 71:10, 73:14, 73:15, 73:21, 74:1, 77:14, 77:15, 80:22, 86:5, 90:20, 93:2, 93:7, 94:2, 94:16, 102:5, 105:23, 117:4 New [17] - 1:12, 4:6, 4:7, 9:17, 22:14, 26:15, 28:2, 30:23, 31:18, 33:12, 33:22, 36:13, 38:2, 85:24, 92:10, 99:3, 121:6 newer [2] - 72:4, 100:13 newspapers [2] -4:10, 26:18

next [8] - 6:11, 6:23,

10:20, 11:21, 11:23, 47:10, 73:12, 93:19 nice [9] - 34:23, 89:25, 91:16, 103:19, 104:3, 106:8, 106:24, 107:17, 113:20 night [5] - 15:12, 15:15, 16:15, 120:3, 120:15 nightmare [1] - 51:21 NIMESH [2] - 24:17, 82.22 Nimesh [2] - 82:16, 89:12 nine [5] - 64:6, 83:20, 83:21 nine-year-old [1] -64:6 **NJIT** [1] - 38:1 NO [1] - 22:8 noble [1] - 74:9 nobody [3] - 8:24, 64:11, 64:12 noise [1] - 64:24 nominate [2] - 7:7, 8:17 **nominating** [3] - 6:24, 7:1, 7:25 nomination [3] - 7:2, 7:10, 10:2 NOMINATIONS [1] nominations [2] -8:12, 8:15 nonconformity [1] -41:12 none [5] - 7:16, 9:6, 17:12, 81:10, 110:9 normal [1] - 96:12 normally [1] - 53:25 **NORTH** [3] - 22:7, 22:7, 24:8 north [7] - 39:21, 40:12, 40:15, 41:19, 42:12, 53:20, 77:15 North [34] - 33:15, 33:16, 36:8, 36:20, 37:3, 39:21, 40:12, 41:21, 51:21, 53:8, 53:21, 61:23, 62:2, 62:11, 64:4, 72:13, 72:15, 77:16, 78:14, 78:18, 80:16, 81:5, 88:21, 89:4, 95:7, 95:20, 98:15, 99:18, 103:7, 113:13, 113:16, 118:25, 119:19, 119:22 notary [1] - 121:4

Notary [2] - 121:12, 121:13 Note [2] - 59:25, 60:5 note [3] - 30:14, 59:24, 60:3 notes [2] - 29:18, 121.7 nothing [1] - 106:12 **notice** [7] - 4:8, 4:11, 4:16, 4:18, 26:16, 26:19, 35:11 noticed [1] - 32:24 NUMBER [1] - 25:3 Number [3] - 30:22. 48:23, 121:12 number [4] - 50:20, 58:13, 67:14, 67:21 **numbers** [1] - 97:8 numerous [3] - 37:25, 38:5, 38:6 nursery [2] - 96:7, 97:17 nuts [1] - 18:21

oaths [2] - 6:20, 21:7 **objectives** [1] - 115:24 obviously [4] - 70:23, 84:14, 84:20, 98:5 occasion [1] - 14:2 occasionally [1] -13:16 occasions [1] - 98:3 occupancy [1] - 64:16 **OF** [11] - 1:1, 1:10, 3:6, 3:12, 3:14, 3:15, 3:16, 22:2, 22:12, 24:6, 24:7 office [7] - 6:18, 19:23, 21:1, 71:7, 71:13, 93:19, 98:17 officer [2] - 14:1, 64:20 officers [1] - 54:4 officially [2] - 20:21, 21:3 often [7] - 12:16, 12:24, 13:1, 14:1, 19:11, 51:23, 52:24 **OLD** [1] - 3:6 old [5] - 40:10, 42:6, 44:10, 64:6, 104:5 older [1] - 78:4 Omicron [1] - 4:14 once [3] - 6:3, 42:24, 63:12 one [55] - 11:5, 14:8. 14:25, 16:18, 16:19, 16:22, 17:6, 17:7,

17:12, 18:20, 20:17, 36:17, 36:22, 41:25, 42:22, 42:23, 44:8, 44:9, 45:1, 45:10, 46:14, 46:21, 47:7, 48:10, 48:15, 49:22, 58:4, 59:4, 59:13, 59:14, 60:13, 62:16, 62:17, 69:14, 72:23, 73:4, 74:16, 74:17, 75:9, 76:18, 78:10, 78:14, 80:16, 83:25, 84:5, 85:20, 91:6, 98:1, 98:2, 99:2, 104:9, 106:20, 108:4, 116:14 one-inch [2] - 45:1, 47:7 one-story [2] - 41:25, 59.4 one-way [1] - 42:23 ones [2] - 75:9, 99:3 open [8] - 44:21,

0

58:20, 71:9, 72:3, 103:21, 104:7, 105:4, 108:18 Open [3] - 4:7, 26:8, 26:15 opening [5] - 36:13, 80:18, 86:2, 109:23, 119:21 operating [1] - 83:6 operation [3] - 96:15, 111:10, 117:2 operational [1] - 90:12 operations [2] - 66:7, 66:13 opinion [1] - 94:21 opportunity [10] -42:14, 43:23, 43:25, 44:22, 45:17, 60:23, 63:7, 94:3, 113:11, 113:17 opposed [7] - 7:15, 9:5. 10:10. 11:14. 21:14, 30:13, 115:10 opposite [1] - 75:1 **optimal** [1] - 58:5 order [5] - 5:2, 11:24, 17:10, 43:2, 74:8 ordinance [7] - 12:20, 12:23, 13:1, 14:3, 94:9, 94:14, 99:21 ordinary [4] - 10:22, 11:6, 11:8, 96:14 ORDINARY/ **EXTRAORDINARY** [1] - 3:11 org [1] - 4:19 oriented [2] - 13:6,

36:16 original [1] - 75:11 originally [1] - 4:12 ornamentals [1] - 58:6 otherwise [2] - 29:18, 65.13 outermost [1] - 42:9 outlier [2] - 81:7, 115:8 outlined [3] - 10:2, 47:21, 49:7 outset [3] - 36:4, 36:10, 76:19 outside [1] - 13:24 over-lean [1] - 86:12 overall [1] - 89:20 overflow [1] - 47:6 overlap [2] - 46:13, 46:15 overview [3] - 34:15, 35:19, 38:17 owner [3] - 66:14, 73:6, 82:5

Ρ

P-3[1] - 43:9 **p.m** [4] - 1:12, 21:20, 22:15, 120:19 package [1] - 75:11 page [2] - 28:2, 28:10 Page [1] - 48:23 **PAGE** [5] - 3:4, 24:4. 24:14, 24:20, 25:3 pages [1] - 60:6 paragraph [3] - 28:3, 28:11, 28:21 parallel [1] - 95:21 parapet [1] - 74:10 parcels [1] - 39:17 pardon [1] - 75:8 Park [2] - 29:4, 91:25 park [5] - 79:21, 87:9, 87:13, 103:22, 106:7 parked [4] - 42:22, 42:23, 90:8, 108:19 parking [59] - 35:4, 35:7, 36:3, 36:12, 37:5, 40:14, 41:12, 42:12, 53:23, 55:10, 55:12, 56:15, 57:7, 57:10, 72:18, 73:10, 78:14, 78:18, 79:2, 79:17, 79:21, 80:4, 88:5, 88:8, 88:23, 88:25, 93:4, 93:10, 93:16, 93:20, 93:23, 94:4, 94:15, 95:10, 96:23, 97:10, 97:15, 102:2, 102:3,

103:18, 104:5, 105:2, 105:4, 106:1, 106:2, 106:14, 106:21, 106:25, 112:7, 113:20, 116:10, 116:12, 116:15, 116:20 part [13] - 12:21, 43:3. 65:10, 67:2, 75:11, 76:17, 77:24, 78:9, 86:14, 89:19, 100:25, 115:4 participants [1] - 61:1 particular [10] - 10:17, 41:2, 44:17, 48:17, 52:25, 67:11, 85:21, 85:25, 86:6, 100:17 particularly [7] -36:19, 69:3, 87:2, 92:20, 113:13, 114:5, 119:14 29.4

parties [1] - 18:15 Partners [2] - 28:5, past [5] - 14:11, 19:7, 37:24, 43:16, 46:18 patel [5] - 34:10, 90:11, 90:13, 103:11, 119:15 PATEL [7] - 23:24, 24:17, 82:19, 82:22, 86:19, 103:13, 119:7 Patel [11] - 34:12, 34:20, 35:12, 82:16, 82:21, 82:25, 90:25, 91:4, 96:12, 108:11, 118:21 path [4] - 88:18, 89:2, 89:23, 104:2 paths [3] - 105:5, 105:7 pathway [1] - 88:22 pattern [6] - 46:2, 53:22. 93:12. 94:9. 97:21. 100:25 pattern's [1] - 52:1 patterns [2] - 51:20, 96:22 paved [6] - 88:23, 95:24, 101:1, 102:2, 102:8, 102:24 pavers [2] - 95:19, 105:19 pavilion [1] - 36:9 payment [1] - 100:25 **PB** [2] - 3:14, 3:15 **PB-21-11** [1] - 22:6 **PB18-10** [3] - 30:22, 31:6, 31:18 PB19-02[2] - 30:20,

33:11 PB21-09 [2] - 32:19, 33:9 PB21-11 [2] - 24:8, 33.15 PE [1] - 38:1 peak [6] - 53:2, 65:12, 66:21, 67:11, 67:14, 67:15 **peaks** [1] - 96:8 pedestrian [31] -36:16, 51:25, 64:8, 79:14, 80:8, 80:19, 81:1, 81:3, 84:19, 84:23, 85:14, 86:14, 87:3, 88:7, 88:24, 89:18, 90:15, 98:9, 101:6, 101:15, 103:5, 103:12, 110:21, 110:25, 114:23, 115:17, 116:3, 116:8, 119:9, 119:16, 119:19 pedestrian-friendly [2] - 80:19, 87:3 pedestrian-inviting [1] - 81:1 pedestrian-oriented [1] - 36:16 pedestrians [8] - 65:6, 90:5, 95:11, 95:15, 100:23, 107:2, 114:1, 118:25 Pencil [1] - 45:25 people [15] - 16:21, 52:20, 61:24, 84:2, 85:10, 85:15, 86:9, 88:14, 89:3, 89:22, 90:2, 95:25, 96:8, 103:22, 114:9 per [8] - 50:18, 53:1, 67:11, 97:7, 109:7, 109:8 perceive [1] - 68:15 percent [4] - 41:13, 41:14, 41:16 Peregoy [1] - 52:12 performance [3] -50:23, 52:15, 53:4 performed [1] - 50:16 perhaps [2] - 75:11, 86:23 permeable [1] - 44:18 permit [1] - 44:24 permits [2] - 43:17, 50:25 permitted [10] - 34:21, 35:2, 41:15, 41:17, 65:16, 65:17, 96:4, 97:18, 111:5, 113:4

perpendicular [1] -88.12 perpetuating [3] -36:22, 37:4, 53:21 person [5] - 4:15, 33:2, 33:5, 51:17, 83:15 personal [1] - 9:12 perspective [2] - 54:7, 86:15 pertain [1] - 12:23 pesticides [3] - 28:13, 28:18, 29:7 114:7 phone [2] - 18:11, 20:20 photographs [1] -100:13 phrase [1] - 111:3 pick [3] - 65:2, 81:25, 33:24 85:12 picked [1] - 59:25 picture [4] - 94:23, 95:1, 95:14, 98:13 pieces [1] - 28:1 pier [7] - 72:2, 72:7, 73:19, 74:2 piers [2] - 72:5, 73:2 pipe [3] - 44:9, 44:11, 45:1 pits [1] - 44:21 place [10] - 14:17, 52:23, 81:7, 86:10, 102:3 87:9, 87:12, 94:6, 99:21, 107:8, 108:12 **PLACE** [6] - 2:4, 5:20, 23:4, 27:12, 32:9, 80:10 placed [1] - 76:2 plain [2] - 66:23, 74:5 Plains [1] - 91:25 **PLAN** [2] - 3:12, 22:6 plan [31] - 11:25, 13:7, 13:19, 14:5, 14:20, 16:21, 17:7, 17:16, 39:15, 40:1, 43:4, 43:9, 45:7, 46:8, 47:17, 49:4, 51:5, 60:24, 71:5, 72:9, 79:14, 88:10, 89:20, 97:19, 98:7, 104:17, 105:13, 113:25, 116:2, 120:13 22.6 Plan [3] - 12:15, 12:24, 18:23 planner [9] - 19:17, 91:22, 92:1, 92:5, 92:7, 92:10, 99:1, 103:17, 112:7 **PLANNER** [1] - 3:16 present [3] - 5:23,

PLANNER/BOARD [2]

27:15, 76:21

- 2:15, 23:14 **PLANNING** [3] - 1:2, 37:7, 47:22 1:6, 22:3 planning [16] - 4:9, 60:24 7:4. 9:16. 9:19. 10:4. 10:8. 10:21. 11:9. 16:23, 19:1, 19:18, 35:6, 54:3, 54:4, 91:10, 105:9 Planning [1] - 26:17 plans [9] - 39:2, 46:20, 59:16, 59:17, 62:4, 71:1, 75:12, 90:4, 112:17 **plant** [1] - 95:23 plantings [1] - 45:21 plaza [3] - 106:6, 79:20, 79:23 106:22, 106:24 pleasure [2] - 8:1, Pledge [2] - 4:21, 4:23 112:25 point [8] - 44:13, 59:2, 69:1, 90:10, 96:2, 103:4, 108:8, 113:25 privy [1] - 114:17 pointed [1] - 60:7 points [4] - 46:19, 98:18, 107:10 81:3, 92:25, 103:5 police [1] - 64:20 70:19 popped [1] - 74:8 popup [1] - 64:1 121.7 portion [5] - 43:16. 44:17, 57:21, 71:6, 1:10, 22:12 position [1] - 114:25 **positioned** [1] - 79:12 **positions** [1] - 92:4 possible [3] - 54:9, 57:10, 102:7 15:12 posted [1] - 20:3 postponed [1] - 94:25 potential [3] - 13:17, 14:3, 86:5 103:25 practically [1] - 35:3 practicing [1] - 38:3 precast [4] - 74:11, 74:12, 74:13, 74:14 precluding [1] - 55:15 preexisting [1] - 111:7 86:6 preferable [1] - 78:24 proofs [1] - 93:7 preference [1] - 15:4 39:25, 113:7 PRELIMINARY [1] preliminary [2] -35:21, 49:11 55:22, 56:3, 57:9, 66:14, 83:2, 112:9, premier [1] - 85:24 112:19, 116:25 premises [1] - 90:19 proposal [2] - 41:23. preparation [1] - 48:1 105:12 preparing [1] - 83:12

presentation [2] presented [2] - 38:4, Preservation [3] -15:5, 15:10, 19:10 preservation [3] -16:22, 17:6, 17:11 pressed [1] - 9:15 pressing [1] - 58:15 pressure [1] - 18:2 presumption [1] pretty [10] - 5:1, 40:11, 40:19, 45:13, 46:6, 48:16, 73:16, 79:7, previous [1] - 12:6 previously [4] - 35:8, 70:13, 112:17, private [1] - 114:9 privilege [1] - 11:18 problem [3] - 65:24, proceed [2] - 69:25, proceedings [1] -PROCEEDINGS [2] productive [1] - 9:10 professional [6] -10:24, 19:17, 35:5, 91:10, 92:1, 121:5 professionally [1] professionals [3] -33:24, 35:19, 110:12 progression [1] -**PROJECT** [1] - 22:8 project [6] - 13:18, 35:16, 94:20, 97:25, 111:14, 113:14 projects [2] - 86:5, properties [3] - 39:23, property [12] - 35:15, 40:24, 43:6, 55:19,

proposals [1] - 36:21

proposed [15] - 38:19,

41:24, 42:20, 44:2, 46:22, 59:4, 62:8, 66:8, 66:19, 73:15, 75:1, 76:22, 83:7, 93:17, 97:22 proposing [1] - 41:9 proven [1] - 46:5 provide [19] - 4:18, 14:1, 14:2, 19:17. 20:6, 35:17, 38:17, 40:17, 42:20, 47:3, 57:18, 66:5, 84:12, 84:22, 89:2, 92:16, 98:6, 98:8, 111:18 provided [3] - 4:9, 26:17, 49:8 providing [6] - 84:9, 93:9, 97:11, 97:15, 103:12, 110:21 provision [1] - 12:19 public [21] - 6:21, 13:24, 33:8, 60:22, 68:4, 76:8, 81:11, 81:13, 82:8, 82:10, 91:2, 91:4, 92:7, 107:24. 108:1. 109:22. 109:23. 110:4, 110:13, 110:20, 121:5 PUBLIC [1] - 24:20 **Public** [4] - 4:7, 26:8, 26:15, 119:17 pull [2] - 17:22, 59:16 **pulling** [1] - 106:1 pulls [3] - 73:25, 107:11, 107:12 punishment [1] - 9:2 purchased [2] - 34:20, 83:1 purple [1] - 46:3 purposes [1] - 57:11 **pushed** [1] - 46:18 put [21] - 39:5, 56:5, 56:8, 57:16, 84:18, 94:25, 95:16, 95:22, 95:23, 99:24, 101:15, 105:19, 105:24, 106:13, 106:17, 106:20, 111:4, 114:10, 115:19, 116:17 putting [1] - 56:7

Q

qualifications [6] -37:18, 38:13, 38:14, 70:13, 70:18, 91:22 qualified [3] - 9:16, 66:17, 70:12

questions [41] - 7:23, 13:7, 16:1, 30:5, 30:24, 31:5, 35:21, 38:12, 49:4, 49:7, 49:11, 49:15, 49:17, 54:18, 58:19, 59:21, 60:20. 60:23. 61:4. 63:4. 66:13. 67:25. 68:4, 70:17, 76:12, 77:3, 77:6, 80:13, 81:14, 82:10, 84:3, 84:6, 84:8, 90:11, 90:24, 91:4, 98:20, 98:22, 107:24, 109:14, 110:1 quick [1] - 94:11 quicker [1] - 62:22 quickly [4] - 37:17, 39:6, 91:21, 94:23 Quinn [23] - 35:21, 37:11, 37:12, 37:14, 38:16, 47:25, 49:1, 49:12, 49:13, 57:16, 58:19, 60:23, 61:4, 63:4, 65:3, 66:16, 67:25, 68:4, 69:13, 69:21, 94:18, 97:7, 98:2 QUINN [39] - 24:15, 37:15, 38:25, 39:8, 39:11, 40:6, 49:19, 49:24, 50:4, 51:8, 51:11, 52:9, 52:19, 53:10, 53:24, 54:12, 54:25, 55:6, 55:14, 56:2, 56:13, 56:20, 57:2, 57:20, 58:1, 58:10, 59:6, 60:3, 60:11, 60:15, 62:9, 65:8, 66:25, 68:16, 68:19, 68:23, 69:18, 69:23, 98:12 quinn [3] - 37:20, 51:15, 59:22 Quinn's [2] - 37:18, 38:12 quite [1] - 118:24

R

rack [3] - 98:10, 116:20, 119:9 racks [3] - 87:24, 95:24, 105:19 rail [1] - 74:19 railroad [1] - 39:24 rain [1] - 47:10 raise [9] - 6:13, 19:19, 61:5, 63:5, 69:12, 81:15, 91:5, 108:2,

110:8 raised [5] - 61:2, 81:12, 91:7, 109:15, 109:16 rarely [1] - 102:15 Raritan [2] - 39:24, 45:14 rate [1] - 111:9 rather [1] - 56:6 re [5] - 4:19, 6:22, 21:1, 29:25, 32:24 **RE** [3] - 1:4, 3:7, 22:5 re-noticed [1] - 32:24 re-org [1] - 4:19 re-reviewing [1] -29:25 **RE-SWORN** [1] - 3:7 re-sworn [1] - 21:1 re-welcome [1] - 6:22 rea [1] - 94:4 read [3] - 62:3, 92:24, 92:25 ready [4] - 26:8, 55:8, 97:15, 116:15 real [4] - 53:9, 113:11, 119:1, 119:5 really [27] - 9:10, 16:4, 17:19, 18:12, 18:16, 36:10, 36:14, 44:17, 46:17, 52:18, 54:6, 54:18, 57:8, 62:3, 62:4, 65:4, 65:23, 85:21, 85:23, 86:21, 89:13, 89:24, 89:25, 103:23, 107:2, 113:12, 114:1 reappointed [2] -14:15, 14:20 reappointments [1] -**REAR** [1] - 25:4 rear [4] - 58:24, 59:14, 71:17, 74:18 Rear [1] - 76:4 reason [1] - 40:2 reasons [1] - 111:20 rebranded [1] - 48:17 rebuilt [2] - 94:8, 96:21 recap [2] - 94:11, 115:21 receive [3] - 4:11, 26:19, 34:24 received [1] - 38:1 recent [1] - 36:21 recessed [1] - 78:19 recited [1] - 4:24

recognition [1] - 50:8

recommend [1] - 14:9

record [4] - 39:16,

61:14, 63:18, 114:11 recording [4] - 29:11, 29:17, 29:25, 68:12 redevelopment [2] -14:5. 111:22 reflect [1] - 29:5 refrigeration [2] -71:16, 81:24 refrigerators [1] -71.12 regard [1] - 88:4 regarding [4] - 14:3, 36:2, 48:24, 49:4 regardless [1] - 90:3 region's [1] - 86:1 regional [1] - 86:11 regular [3] - 13:8, 18:25, 79:21 reinforce [1] - 81:4 reiterate [1] - 115:12 related [3] - 14:4, 58:23, 67:18 relatively [3] - 43:24, 45:20, 46:6 relief [2] - 75:5, 117:9 relocated [1] - 44:7 rely [1] - 44:24 remain [2] - 73:14, 94:22 remember [1] - 117:1 remind [2] - 12:6, 12:13 remove [2] - 72:25, removed [3] - 74:8, 74:21, 106:11 rendering [1] - 75:18 renewed [1] - 6:9 renomination [1] - 8:3 renovate [1] - 33:17 REORGANIZATION [1] - 1:6 reorganization [5] -6:23, 20:13, 20:15, 21:10, 21:16 repeat [1] - 6:13 replacing [1] - 4:12 replenish [1] - 47:9 replenishes [1] - 47:2 report [3] - 6:24, 111:13, 118:18 representations [1] -117:5 representative [1] -18:1 Representing [1] -28:4 represents [1] - 41:13 repurpose [1] - 65:19

repurposed [1] - 48:9

93:22, 96:17 request [3] - 35:10, 76:21. 111:20 requested [3] - 77:2, 112:15, 117:10 requests [1] - 97:23 required [7] - 14:14, 50:25, 62:20, 83:23, 93:10, 112:15, 116:18 requirement [4] -51:3, 55:21, 55:24, 56:18 requirements [3] -4:16, 94:13, 97:10 rerouted [1] - 44:11 rescheduled [1] - 4:13 residences [1] - 95:11 resident [3] - 28:22, 83:15, 119:24 Resident [1] - 29:20 residential [4] - 39:22, 64:4, 99:10, 99:18 resistance [1] - 88:18 resolution [8] - 10:21, 10:23, 11:2, 30:20, 30:21, 30:25, 31:6, 32:2 RESOLUTIONS [1] -24:7 resolve [1] - 113:20 respectfully [1] -111:20 rest [2] - 43:8, 46:19 restricted [1] - 104:21 result [3] - 112:21, 119:20, 119:21 retail [3] - 77:14, 96:15, 97:1 retaining [4] - 43:5, 43:17, 56:6, 56:8 retention [1] - 10:23 retired [1] - 64:20 returning [1] - 33:23 reuse [3] - 34:18, 110:15, 111:6 Review [2] - 12:16, 18:23 review [5] - 11:25, 17:16, 27:21, 71:3, 76:14 reviewed [1] - 66:19 reviewing [1] - 29:25 reviews [1] - 12:17 revise [1] - 29:23 revised [2] - 29:4, 98:8 revising [1] - 116:1 revision [3] - 29:5, 29:6, 29:15

repurposing [2] -

revisions [4] - 30:3, 30:4, 97:23, 115:21 **RIGHT** [1] - 25:6 right-of-way [3] -51:1, 57:22, 79:19 rip [1] - 94:7 **ripping** [1] - 106:2 road [3] - 52:14, 99:23, 100:1 roads [1] - 97:3 roadway [2] - 48:14, 49:20 role [3] - 8:5, 10:14, 12:13 **roll** [6] - 4:21, 5:1, 26:5, 26:21, 31:9, 117:14 **ROLL** [2] - 3:5, 24:5 room [3] - 57:18, 57:23, 95:25 **ROSE** [1] - 121:12 Rose [1] - 121:4 **ROSS** [2] - 2:9, 23:9 Ross [2] - 5:15, 16:22 roughly [1] - 56:4 route [1] - 116:3 Route [1] - 99:4 routes [2] - 116:3, 116:4 run [5] - 81:23, 112:8, 112:13, 118:23, 119:6 running [3] - 28:13, 88:12, 100:25 runoff [2] - 29:7, 94:20 runs [2] - 39:20, 93:6 rush [2] - 109:4 S

s-04 [1] - 75:22 **S-04** [7] - 25:4, 25:6, 75:21, 75:23, 75:25, 76.4 S-05 [5] - 75:21, 75:24, 75:25, 76:1, 76:5 safe [2] - 14:4, 116:3 safely [1] - 87:13 Safety [1] - 119:17 safety [4] - 93:8, 93:11, 104:5, 119:17 Sammet [8] - 10:3, 10:7, 10:11, 19:21, 35:9, 71:2, 84:15, 92:22 sammet [1] - 48:21 **SAMMET** [124] - 2:15, 3:10, 3:17, 4:5, 4:25, 5:5, 5:7, 5:9, 5:13,

5:15, 5:17, 5:19, 5:21, 5:24, 6:1, 6:7, 7:9, 7:12, 7:15, 8:11, 8:21, 9:3, 9:5, 9:24, 10:13, 10:19, 11:4, 12:2, 12:9, 12:15, 13:22, 14:8, 16:13, 18:22, 19:3, 19:6, 19:25, 20:5, 20:11, 21:2, 23:14, 26:7, 26:11, 26:21, 26:24, 27:1, 27:3, 27:5, 27:7, 27:9, 27:11, 27:13, 27:16, 27:18, 27:22, 29:10, 29:16, 30:7, 30:10, 30:21, 31:1, 31:10, 31:12, 31:14, 31:16, 31:20, 32:5, 32:7, 32:10, 32:12, 32:14, 32:17, 32:22, 33:3, 34:5, 34:12, 40:5, 49:1, 55:23, 56:9, 61:3, 61:8, 63:2, 63:10, 63:13, 63:19, 63:23, 69:14, 75:19, 75:22, 75:25, 76:7, 81:13, 82:9, 88:7, 88:9, 91:3, 95:2, 95:5, 100:3, 100:8, 100:12, 100:16, 101:10, 102:1, 102:13, 102:19, 103:4, 108:1, 109:16, 110:7, 116:17, 117:13, 117:17, 117:19, 117:21, 117:23, 117:25, 118:2, 118:4, 118:6, 118:9, 118:14, 120:13 Sammet's [4] - 76:14, 98:17, 110:25, 111:12 satisfy [1] - 49:9 **saw** [1] - 63:5 scale [2] - 74:4, 74:9 scape [1] - 102:20 scattered [2] - 41:4, 45:12 **schedule** [1] - 20:2 **SCHEDULE** [1] - 3:18 **scheduled** [1] - 4:12 Schnitzers [1] - 30:23 school [3] - 34:3, 96:7, 97:18 Scotch [1] - 91:25 screen [9] - 38:22, 39:5, 70:1, 82:17, 94:25, 95:4, 100:5,

105:13, 116:12 screening [2] - 57:11, 80:24 Scrolling [1] - 107:21 scrolling [1] - 81:9 seating [1] - 82:4 seats [1] - 16:7 second [22] - 7:9, 7:11, 8:20, 10:5, 11:9, 11:10, 21:10, 21:11, 28:2, 28:21, 30:5, 30:6, 30:7, 31:7, 63:11, 75:9, 83:18, 83:23, 87:5, 111:1, 117:12, 120:8 **SECOND** [2] - 2:13, 23:12 secondary [2] - 71:14, 71:19 seconded [1] - 117:13 Seconded [1] - 8:22 SECRETARY [3] -2:15, 3:10, 23:14 secretary [5] - 9:25, 10:3, 10:8, 10:12, 26:5 section [2] - 64:4, 77:15 see [64] - 5:10, 7:15, 8:2, 9:5, 17:12, 33:18, 33:20, 33:21, 34:3, 34:12, 34:18, 34:22, 35:22, 38:25, 39:6, 40:3, 40:10, 41:23, 42:2, 42:6, 42:7, 44:10, 51:9, 52:6, 56:2, 56:20, 56:22, 57:8, 60:16, 61:1, 61:6, 62:4, 63:8, 63:19, 65:5, 68:5, 69:14, 70:1, 73:18, 79:6, 81:10, 82:10. 82:16. 86:10. 88:19. 91:17. 95:1. 95:12. 96:19. 98:18. 100:22, 101:23, 103:22, 104:16, 105:12, 105:25, 107:23, 109:15, 110:9, 113:5, 113:9, 117:4, 120:14 seeing [1] - 118:18 seeking [1] - 33:17 seem [1] - 115:4 sell [1] - 97:14 sending [1] - 34:25 sense [7] - 41:18, 44:20, 45:20, 53:13, 73:3, 95:16, 103:10 sent [2] - 75:10, 75:16

sentiment [1] - 119:14 separate [2] - 116:8, 116:9 separated [3] - 79:14, 80:7. 116:2 separately [1] - 119:4 separates [1] - 45:14 seriously [2] - 77:14, 78:1 serve [6] - 7:7, 8:2, 9:8, 9:13, 13:19, 14:24 served [2] - 12:10, 14:12 serves [1] - 42:3 service [4] - 8:4, 9:23, 10:23, 19:15 services [2] - 10:24, 14:1 set [14] - 34:13, 36:18, 39:12, 46:20, 50:3, 50:4, 53:23, 54:2, 72:14, 72:19, 73:23, 78:25, 84:6, 85:23 setback [8] - 55:21, 55:23, 56:17, 74:1, 79:10, 113:19, 115:3 setbacks [2] - 35:4, 73:24 seven [4] - 39:14, 56:4, 83:24, 92:3 shade [2] - 58:14, 95:7 shame [2] - 89:16, 113:23 **share** [5] - 38:22, 41:1, 94:25, 95:4, 100:5 **sharing** [6] - 56:24, 57:3, 69:18, 69:19, 73:11, 96:1 **shed** [1] - 54:13 **SHEET** [2] - 25:4, 25:6 **Sheet** [3] - 45:7, 76:4, 76:5 sheets [3] - 39:14, 75:14, 75:19 **SHELLEY** [2] - 2:5, 23:5 Shelly's [1] - 61:22 shelving [3] - 71:12, 71:16, 81:24 shield [1] - 95:10 **shine** [1] - 48:11 shoes [1] - 10:14 shop [1] - 97:1 **shopping** [3] - 53:22, 64:13, 79:1 short [2] - 56:8, 96:9 **shortcuts** [1] - 89:23 shorter [3] - 45:24,

56:5, 89:2 shortest [2] - 88:14, 102:1 shot [1] - 115:25 **show** [11] - 43:4, 44:25, 46:21, 47:13, 57:4, 58:2, 59:17, 72:6, 72:21, 94:23, 100:5 **showed** [2] - 76:18, 81:23 showing [5] - 53:16, 60:15, 60:17, 102:4, 102:9 **shown** [2] - 47:16, 92:19 shows [2] - 43:10, 46:8 side [36] - 12:21, 40:15, 40:16, 48:7, 49:23, 50:1, 50:5, 50:7, 55:1, 55:22, 56:14, 71:16, 72:17, 73:4, 73:10, 73:14, 74:3, 74:23, 74:24, 75:2, 75:5, 75:7, 77:16, 78:18, 93:4, 93:15, 93:16, 93:20, 93:24, 94:14, 95:17, 96:23, 101:6, 106:20, 108:14 **SIDE** [1] - 25:6 Side [1] - 76:5 side-by-side [1] -12:21 side-yard [3] - 93:4, 93:16, 96:23 sides [1] - 107:1 sidewalk [15] - 36:22, 57:9, 59:13, 78:17, 78:20, 79:15, 79:19, 79:22, 80:2, 88:13, 95:18, 95:20, 101:3. 105:21, 105:24 sidewalks [2] - 85:15, 107:1 **sign** [7] - 6:21, 35:10, 48:6, 48:7, 48:8, 48:11 signage [5] - 35:13, 35:14, 76:18, 76:21, 76:22 significantly [3] -64:15, 64:16, 65:6 silly [1] - 31:22 similar [2] - 83:6, 88:1 simple [1] - 73:16 simply [1] - 7:2 single [4] - 40:13, 41:19, 41:20, 68:19

sit [1] - 12:21 site [79] - 11:25, 13:7, 13:19, 14:4, 14:20, 16:20, 17:6, 17:7, 17:16, 35:22, 38:5, 38:18, 40:8, 40:10, 40:12, 40:13, 40:19, 40:22, 41:3, 41:4, 41:10, 43:3, 43:14, 45:9, 54:6, 54:9, 62:13, 65:20, 70:23, 72:9, 72:16, 73:9, 78:24, 79:4, 79:10, 79:14, 80:1, 85:1, 87:3, 88:21, 89:4, 89:15, 89:20, 90:4, 93:7, 93:22, 94:1, 94:2, 94:21, 95:6, 95:8, 95:13, 96:2, 96:9, 96:10, 96:17, 96:20, 97:9, 97:19, 98:4, 98:7, 98:14, 100:18, 100:22, 101:6, 103:6, 104:17, 110:18, 110:21, 111:22, 113:25, 114:7, 114:9, 116:2, 116:4, 117:3, 117:6, 120:13 SITE [2] - 3:12, 22:6 Site [3] - 12:15, 12:24, 18:23 sites [2] - 41:5, 93:16 sitting [1] - 113:8 situated [1] - 42:5 **situation** [5] - 36:6, 37:1, 37:5, 41:10, 64:22 six [2] - 92:3, 109:11 size [2] - 64:15, 107:17 **Sky** [1] - 45:25 **slab** [1] - 73:13 slated [2] - 80:22, 85:10 slender [1] - 45:25 **slope** [2] - 56:7, 56:8 slot [1] - 108:22 Slous [1] - 10:25 slow [1] - 109:2 slowly [1] - 45:2 smack [1] - 107:13 small [2] - 97:1, 97:22 smart [2] - 53:7, 97:22 **snapshot** [1] - 40:8 **so.**. [1] - 105:10 soften [1] - 45:20 **softer** [1] - 56:8 soil [1] - 47:11 soil's [1] - 44:15

soils [3] - 44:18, 44:23, 47:5 someone [11] - 7:2, 14:14, 14:24, 17:8, 39:4, 54:10, 55:20, 101:2, 102:16, 114:2, 120:5 soon [1] - 118:18 sorry [8] - 18:11, 30:8, 58:20, 80:5, 81:21, 87:4, 89:12, 103:14 sort [14] - 36:3, 38:4, 53:22, 61:21, 77:12, 78:25, 79:9, 88:11, 88:21, 99:11, 100:24, 106:4, 112:16, 113:20 sounds [1] - 31:22 south [5] - 39:23, 39:25, 40:16, 42:13, **space** [7] - 56:5, 71:13, 81:23, 88:20, 97:16, 113:5, 116:16 spaces [17] - 42:14, 72:3, 78:21, 88:23, 88:25, 97:12, 103:18. 103:20. 105:1, 105:3, 106:1, 106:5, 106:10, 106:13, 106:16, 106:21, 107:15 **spacing** [1] - 42:19 **speaking** [2] - 64:12, 72:11 special [4] - 4:11, 13:13, 32:24, 52:24 **SPECIAL** [1] - 1:5 specific [2] - 13:3, 116:6 **spend** [1] - 89:9 **split** [4] - 50:10, 53:8, 63:11, 73:8 **splitting** [1] - 72:16 spot [5] - 43:11, 43:24, 57:16, 84:19, 115:19 spots [1] - 88:16 spotty [1] - 18:9 spread [2] - 52:19, 96:11 **Springfield** [1] - 32:20 square [9] - 42:1, 42:4, 43:20, 43:21, 44:4, 60:17, 67:11, 67:13, 73:1 squeeze [2] - 89:17, 90.7 staff [1] - 10:17

stair [1] - 74:3

74:7

staircase [1] - 71:17 stalls [1] - 42:15 standards [2] - 12:23, 14.4 standpoint [5] - 35:6, 50:24, 65:17, 65:25, 86:25 Star [1] - 26:19 start [6] - 7:3, 14:17, 14:19, 18:25, 34:6, 39:9 started [1] - 13:10 starting [1] - 77:7 State 151 - 4:7. 9:17. 26:15, 38:2, 121:6 state [19] - 29:20, 36:4, 36:9, 50:13, 52:14, 61:15, 62:20, 63:17, 67:2, 97:4, 97:5, 97:6, 99:1, 99:2, 99:6, 99:12, 99:14, 99:22, 114:21 statement [2] - 26:9, 29.7 station [1] - 87:24 stations [4] - 85:17, 85:19, 90:14, 111:19 status [1] - 43:22 staying [2] - 15:21, 15:24 steel [1] - 72:2 stenographer [1] -121:5 **STEPHEN** [1] - 23:24 still [9] - 15:25, 47:9, 58:20, 67:24, 73:9, 84:1, 100:20, 102:23, 107:16 stone [5] - 44:22, 74:5, 74:11, 74:12, 74:13 stop [7] - 51:22, 56:24, 57:3, 69:18, 69:19, 73:11, 96:1 stops [1] - 74:5 storage [1] - 94:19 store [28] - 33:18, 34:21, 45:14, 51:19, 52:8, 52:16, 52:22, 52:24, 59:1, 59:9, 62:8, 64:9, 64:17, 65:11, 66:8, 66:14, 67:19, 69:6, 81:19, 83:11, 83:20, 87:11, 96:25, 97:14, 108:18, 109:3, 109:5 stores [1] - 65:1 storm [1] - 94:17 story [3] - 41:25, 59:4,

straight [4] - 72:15, 88:13, 93:10, 100:23 Street [2] - 1:11, 22:14 street [18] - 36:16, 51:23, 51:24, 57:24, 58:3, 58:5, 64:3, 86:3, 93:9, 93:15, 99:7, 99:10, 100:6, 100:11, 104:1, 106:9, 113:22, 116:13 strictly [1] - 97:19 **strip** [4] - 53:22, 79:1, 93:19, 99:15 strip-shopping [1] -53:22 strip-shoppingcenter [1] - 79:1 stripe [1] - 88:23 striping [2] - 89:12, 100:24 **structure** [3] - 45:20, 72:24, 111:18 stucco [5] - 74:10, 74:15, 74:22, 75:1, 75:6 stuff [2] - 86:14, 94:7 **style** [1] - 36:15 stylistic [2] - 72:6, 74:7 sub [1] - 67:4 sub-consultant [1] -67:4 Subcommittee [3] -12:16, 12:24, 18:23 subcommittee [11] -12:3, 13:1, 13:7, 13:12, 13:14, 13:19, 14:2, 14:12, 14:21, 16:7, 120:13 SUBCOMMITTEE [1] -3:12 subdivision [2] -12:19, 12:22 submissions [1] -76:18 **substance** [1] - 13:5 substantial [1] -112:21 **substitute** [1] - 15:1 success [1] - 118:24 **successful** [1] - 84:21 sufficiently [2] -94:21, 96:3 suggested [4] - 78:8, 84:10, 100:19, 110:24 suggesting [1] - 80:16

suggestion [2] -

84:11, 110:22

suggestions [4] -58:11, 92:19, 98:16, 115.17 sum [2] - 109:22, 110:11 summarized [1] -117:11 **Sunday** [1] - 83:22 **sunflower** [1] - 46:4 **super** [2] - 68:10 supplement [1] -98:16 supplemented [1] -46:3 supported [1] - 86:17 **suppose** [1] - 16:19 **surface** [1] - 56:15 **surprised** [1] - 85:12 surrounding [1] - 88:2 **survey** [1] - 44:15 surveyor [1] - 92:1 sustainability [4] -86:7, 86:13, 86:25, 87:15 sustainable [1] -85.24 swear [2] - 6:11, 19:16 **SWEARING** [2] - 3:6, 3:16 switch [1] - 106:10 switched [1] - 87:5 **SWORN** [1] - 3:7 **sworn** [11] - 6:2, 6:17, 19:22, 20:20, 20:21, 21:1, 37:12, 37:15, 70:9, 82:23, 91:20 synergy [1] - 110:16 synthetic [1] - 87:18 system [3] - 44:20, 94:19, 111:16 systems [2] - 90:21, 111:16

Т

table [3] - 9:22, 29:14, 81:25
tables [2] - 81:20, 83:17
talks [2] - 28:7, 59:25
tall [2] - 43:18, 46:16
taller [1] - 45:25
tasked [2] - 12:16, 13:2
Tax [1] - 39:17
TD [1] - 33:17
team [4] - 58:8, 77:13, 90:20, 111:4
tear [1] - 78:5
tearing [2] - 73:5, 78:8

technical [2] - 13:6, 66:20 technically [1] -112:22 tend [1] - 52:22 tends [1] - 52:19 term [2] - 6:8, 9:14 terms [6] - 52:25, 58:24, 66:20, 66:23, 89:25, 113:14 terrible [1] - 18:12 testified [8] - 37:16, 37:23, 70:10, 82:23, 91:20, 97:7, 109:25, 112:7 testify [3] - 57:13, 66:18, 69:8 testifying [1] - 54:11 testimony [15] - 19:17, 47:23, 49:9, 52:12, 60:24, 65:15, 66:2, 66:5, 66:12, 66:15, 69:25, 70:19, 97:25, 110:5, 112:1 tests [1] - 67:7 text [2] - 84:7, 89:8 textural [1] - 46:6 thanking [1] - 119:15 THE [1] - 3:9 there're [11] - 18:15, 31:5, 45:15, 50:17, 50:25, 71:21, 81:20, 85:9, 95:8, 96:20, 109:21 they've [2] - 48:16, 67:5 thinking [11] - 56:18, 88:9, 88:14, 89:15, 100:16, 100:18, 100:21, 101:11, 105:11, 106:5, 115:10 third [4] - 28:3, 28:11, 71:19, 71:20 thirteenth [1] - 83:9 thoughts [1] - 114:11 three [13] - 14:18,

Tiller [4] - 5:21, 6:10, 27:13, 32:14 TILLER [2] - 2:11, 3:8 timing [2] - 83:19 **TO**[3] - 3:14, 3:15, 24.9 today [5] - 40:9, 68:22, 68:24, 75:10, 102:5 together [4] - 9:15, 11:8, 74:16, 111:5 toilets [1] - 71:13 Tom [3] - 33:21, 34:6, 102:5 **TOM** [2] - 24:15, 37:15 ton [1] - 45:8 tonight [5] - 54:11, 94:12, 97:20, 97:24, 117:5 took [3] - 73:7, 106:5, 106:16 top [9] - 47:1, 47:4, 48:23, 56:22, 73:19, 74:3, 74:11, 74:23, 75:1 Top [2] - 56:12, 75:2 total [1] - 41:3 totally [2] - 101:8, 103:8 touch [6] - 47:21, 48:6, 49:2, 54:15, 84:4, 86:24 touched [1] - 76:15 tough [1] - 13:22 toward [9] - 37:3, 53:21, 72:15, 73:8, 77:16, 78:17, 78:18, 100:22, 113:21 towards [1] - 36:8 **TOWN** [7] - 1:1, 2:15, 2:16, 3:16, 22:2, 23:14, 23:15 town [19] - 9:9, 17:22, 17:24, 18:1, 19:16, 20:3, 20:6, 39:2, 83:22, 83:23, 84:15, 85:23, 85:24, 88:25, 92:5, 99:25, 113:9, 117.8 towns [5] - 36:14, 38:5, 38:7, 99:7, 99.25 Township [2] - 92:5, 92:8 township [1] - 84:14 TPC [1] - 3:15 tractor [1] - 108:24 tractor-trailers [1] -108:24 traditional [1] - 44:20 traffic [33] - 49:17,

49:19, 50:9, 50:22, 51:20, 51:25, 52:1, 52:3, 52:7, 52:10, 52:11, 61:22, 64:8, 64:19, 64:21, 65:4, 65:15, 65:16, 65:18, 66:1, 66:15, 66:17, 66:18, 66:22, 67:7, 67:15, 68:15, 69:4, 80:20, 96:10, 97:3, 99:25 trailers [2] - 55:2, 108:24 train [1] - 74:19 TRANSCRIPT [2] -1:10, 22:12 transcript [2] - 28:25, 61:15 transcription [1] -121:9 Transportation [1] trash [2] - 47:13, 48:19 treat [1] - 29:25 treated [1] - 19:7 tree [4] - 16:22, 17:6, 17:11, 101:23 Tree [1] - 19:10 trees [11] - 17:8, 40:24, 45:10, 57:24, 58:3, 58:5, 58:14, 72:20, 94:22, 95:7, 96:3 Trembulak [3] - 10:25, 11:1, 11:16 TREMBULAK [10] -2:19, 2:20, 3:11, 6:5, 11:17, 23:20, 23:21, 32:1, 112:11, 116:15 trend [1] - 115:8 Trevenen [1] - 10:25

TREVENEN [2] - 2:20,

tried [2] - 47:20, 56:23

trip [11] - 50:17, 52:24,

52:25, 65:25, 66:21,

67:10, 67:12, 67:16,

trips [5] - 50:20, 53:1,

65:12, 67:10, 67:14

truck [4] - 55:3, 64:13,

trucks [5] - 42:17,

true [1] - 112:12

truly [1] - 110:19

54:20, 55:9, 65:7,

trigger [2] - 35:10,

67:18, 67:19

23:21

76:20

97:13

108:21

try [4] - 17:5, 18:23, 95:3, 107:9 trying [12] - 50:9, 54:8, 62:2, 62:5, 65:19, 81:2, 89:17, 90:5, 90:6, 94:4, 100:8, 103.5 **Tuesday** [1] - 109:2 turn [7] - 49:14, 55:5, 60:21, 69:20, 81:10, 91:2, 99:19 turned [1] - 106:6 tweaks [1] - 115:22 twin [1] - 41:20 two [35] - 9:12, 11:4, 12:20, 13:11, 15:8, 16:7, 18:15, 27:23, 28:7, 30:18, 39:16, 43:18, 46:9, 46:13, 46:15, 59:11, 60:16, 72:17, 73:9, 75:3, 75:19, 78:13, 79:21, 80:22, 85:3, 92:4, 103:12, 103:20, 104:14, 105:1, 106:16, 106:21, 107:15, 116:13 two-lane [1] - 79:21 type [3] - 46:4, 89:11, 108:13 typical [2] - 46:24, 97:12 typically [9] - 13:8, 15:13, 16:10, 41:5, 42:16, 42:18, 46:24, 54:4, 67:3

trust [1] - 11:19

U

ultimately [1] - 81:6

unable [1] - 32:23 uncolored [1] - 73:18 under [5] - 28:2, 50:13. 67:2. 93:8. 93:12 underground [1] -94:19 underneath [3] - 42:7, 51:9, 51:12 understood [1] -29:21 unfortunate [2] -36:11, 36:19 unfortunately [3] -37:1, 72:14, 95:8 Union [1] - 92:5 unless [5] - 20:10, 30:4, 47:19, 54:5, 112:20

unlike [1] - 95:6 unmute [3] - 68:6, 81:16, 82:17 unmuted [1] - 8:16 unrealistic [1] - 73:6 unsure [1] - 33:5 **up** [58] - 8:3, 18:16, 18:24, 28:6, 28:15, 35:23, 36:15, 36:20, 36:21, 39:5, 45:17, 47:6, 48:11, 50:3, 50:4, 53:15, 55:6, 56:1, 57:4, 59:16, 59:25, 63:1, 63:5, 63:8, 63:10, 65:2, 67:25, 72:3, 74:8, 78:11, 78:14, 78:17, 78:20, 78:23, 79:8, 79:12, 79:22, 80:15, 80:18, 81:25, 84:7, 85:12, 85:13, 85:23, 86:2, 89:4, 92:10, 93:14, 94:7, 104:2, 104:17, 105:13, 106:2, 109:22, 110:11, 115:9, 116:7, 119:21 upfront [1] - 115:2 ups [2] - 65:1, 69:20 urban [5] - 36:15, 44:15, 72:12, 113:15, 115:4 urban-style [1] - 36:15 usable [1] - 94:7 user [2] - 48:18, 53:1 users [2] - 42:16, 114:8 usual [1] - 92:22 utilize [3] - 54:8, 67:4, 67:9 utilizing [1] - 62:10

V

vacancies [1] - 113:7
vacant [8] - 34:18,
94:1, 96:17, 111:6,
113:5, 116:24,
116:25, 117:3
valid [1] - 94:1
Valley [2] - 39:24,
45:14
variance [13] - 35:7,
35:11, 36:3, 36:11,
36:23, 37:4, 76:20,
93:6, 111:7, 112:6,
112:22, 112:24,
113:18
variances [4] - 92:16,

93:3, 112:8, 112:12

variant [1] - 4:14 variants [1] - 112:15 vary [1] - 13:10 VCEA [1] - 22:8 vegetated [1] - 45:13 vegetation [4] - 45:9, 72:20, 80:24, 87:23 vegetative [1] - 79:23 vehicle [3] - 42:22, 89:16, 108:19 vehicles [6] - 42:22, 42:23, 54:25, 97:10, 108:13. 108:21 vertical [2] - 85:11, 86:2 via [2] - 1:13, 22:16 **viable** [1] - 113:6 vibe [1] - 85:14 VICE [3] - 2:4, 3:10, 23:4 vice [5] - 7:1, 8:13, 8:16, 8:18, 53:14 Vice [2] - 9:6, 56:10 VICE-CHAIR [1] - 3:10 vice-chair [4] - 7:1, 8:13, 8:16, 8:18 Vice-chair [2] - 9:6, 56:10 VICE-CHAIRMAN [2] -2:4, 23:4 vice-Chairman [1] -53:14 view [4] - 76:8, 78:22, 100:6, 116:12 vinyl [1] - 47:15 violation [1] - 41:11 virtual [6] - 4:15, 33:4, 33:6, 33:10, 34:14, 81:12 virtually [9] - 1:13, 22:16, 61:2, 61:5, 63:4, 81:15, 91:5, 108:2, 110:8 visibility [2] - 48:14, 106:8 visitors [1] - 86:11 vitamin [1] - 97:1 volume [1] - 96:25 volunteer [1] - 9:23 volunteered [1] - 8:4 vote [7] - 19:4, 19:8, 31:23, 31:24, 31:25, 32:1, 118:11 votes [1] - 118:10 voting [2] - 32:2,

W

W/CONDITIONS [1] -

118:12

24:9 walk [17] - 51:18, 79:15, 79:16, 79:22, 80:3, 80:8, 87:10, 88:14, 89:3, 90:3, 95:19, 101:5, 101:19. 102:3. 102:8, 102:25 walking [7] - 80:1, 84:24, 88:15, 89:4, 100:21, 101:2 walkway [8] - 85:4, 87:7, 88:24, 98:9, 101:7, 105:6, 110:25, 111:1 wall [7] - 35:10, 43:5, 43:17, 56:6, 56:8, 72:1 wants [2] - 17:21, 47:20 wares [1] - 97:14 Warren [1] - 92:8 water [3] - 28:14, 28:18. 94:17 WATSON [29] - 24:18, 91:14, 91:18, 91:19, 91:23, 91:24, 92:12, 95:3, 95:6, 99:17, 100:10, 100:14, 101:8, 101:12, 101:21, 103:1, 103:8, 104:9, 104:16, 104:20, 105:8, 105:11, 105:15, 105:18, 106:13, 106:19, 107:4, 107:6, 107:15 Watson [10] - 34:8, 35:5, 89:7, 91:11, 91:13, 91:23, 92:15, 98:20, 98:23, 107:25 WaWa [2] - 96:6, 97:17 ways [2] - 87:21, 116:8 website [4] - 20:4, 39:2, 76:2, 76:9 Wednesday [2] - 1:10, 22:13 week [6] - 109:3, 109:7, 109:8, 109:11, 109:12, 109:13 weight [2] - 17:23, 112:24 Welcome [1] - 33:22 welcome [15] - 6:7, 6:8, 6:20, 6:21, 6:22, 8:7, 11:15, 16:25, 17:1, 29:1, 33:23,

61:10, 70:7, 117:8, wells [2] - 44:6, 44:14 WES-1001.006 [1] -22:8 west [7] - 39:22, 40:15, 42:13, 49:23, 88:16, 100:11, 105:21 westerly [8] - 48:7, 50:5, 62:12, 95:16, 101:3, 103:6, 106:20 westerly-most [1] -62:12 **WESTFIELD** [2] - 1:1, 22:2 Westfield [22] - 1:12, 22:14, 26:19, 28:22, 29:3, 29:20, 38:6, 44:16, 64:5, 67:6, 85:22, 92:3, 93:18, 96:18, 96:19, 99:8, 113:5, 113:14, 114:5, 117:4, 118:22, 119:5 whereas [1] - 52:22 whole [6] - 44:14, 56:14, 85:23, 92:24, 109:12, 109:13 wide [3] - 62:15, 103:2, 103:3 widen [1] - 85:15 willing [2] - 84:22, 115:15 windows [5] - 45:24, 46:1, 75:3, 75:4, 77:17 wine [4] - 51:19, 83:10, 85:13, 108:5 Wine [2] - 34:21, 83:7 wing [1] - 77:15 wise [1] - 97:22 wisely [1] - 99:24 wish [2] - 36:23, 113:18 withdrew [1] - 76:20 WITNESS [2] - 24:14, 24:20 witness [2] - 91:10, 109:19 witnesses [2] -109:21, 109:24 wonderful [1] - 92:23 wondering [3] - 52:4, 99:5, 99:11 word [1] - 104:9 words [1] - 50:18

works [3] - 54:19,

54:24, 107:7

worse [1] - 61:24

worthy [1] - 15:25 wow [1] - 56:1 Wychwood [1] - 18:20

Υ

yard [19] - 35:7, 36:3, 36:12. 37:5. 41:12. 53:23, 55:12, 57:7, 72:17, 93:4, 93:15, 93:16, 93:20, 93:24, 96:23, 112:6 Year [2] - 4:6, 33:22 year [12] - 9:10, 11:21, 12:11, 16:24, 18:17, 19:18, 20:2, 38:7, 64:6, 80:18, 83:9, 92.3 years [8] - 34:2, 38:3, 64:10, 64:20, 92:2, 115:1, 115:10, 115:13 **yelling** [1] - 64:12 yourself [1] - 82:17 yup [2] - 57:2

Ζ

zone [7] - 34:22, 35:2, 35:4, 96:5, 97:18, 111:6, 113:4
Zone [2] - 39:20, 99:24
zoning [4] - 12:20, 14:1, 94:13, 99:21
zoom [5] - 40:3, 41:17, 44:7, 45:6, 95:13
Zoom [2] - 1:13, 22:16